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IBC WORLD NEWS
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Immigration crackdown: US Homeland chief faces Senate heat P9

AEPC hails India-Canada CEPA talks revival P11

P12 **P. V. Sindhu Back Home Safe after Dubai Ordeal**

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IRAN INCHES TOWARD DIALOGUE TABLE

Trump says 'IT'S TOO LATE...'

US president Trump says 'It's too late" for Iran to talk as US-Israel strikes cripple Tehran's military; leaves door open for ground operations amid escalating conflict; **Day 4** of the conflict saw Iran target the energy industry and US missions across the Gulf, including the US embassy in Saudi Arabia, as Israel launched a ground invasion of Lebanon; Iran's **Mehrad airport struck** by missiles; death toll rises to **787**

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that Iranian leadership "wants to talk" amid joint US-Israel strikes on Tehran but added, "It's too late." He claimed that Iran's "air defense, Air Force, Navy, and Leadership is gone."

Trump's proclamation came a day after Ali Larijani, the powerful head of the Supreme National Security Council, said Iran would not negotiate with the US. On X Larijani denied media reports claiming Iranian officials had sought talks with Trump. It also lined up with what a senior White House official told Associated Press - that leadership candidates within Iran had reached out for talks. Trump, the official said, said he would 'eventually' talk but only after the military operation ends.

Trump had previously stated that the United States has "the capability to go far longer" than its projected four-to-five-week military operations against Iran.

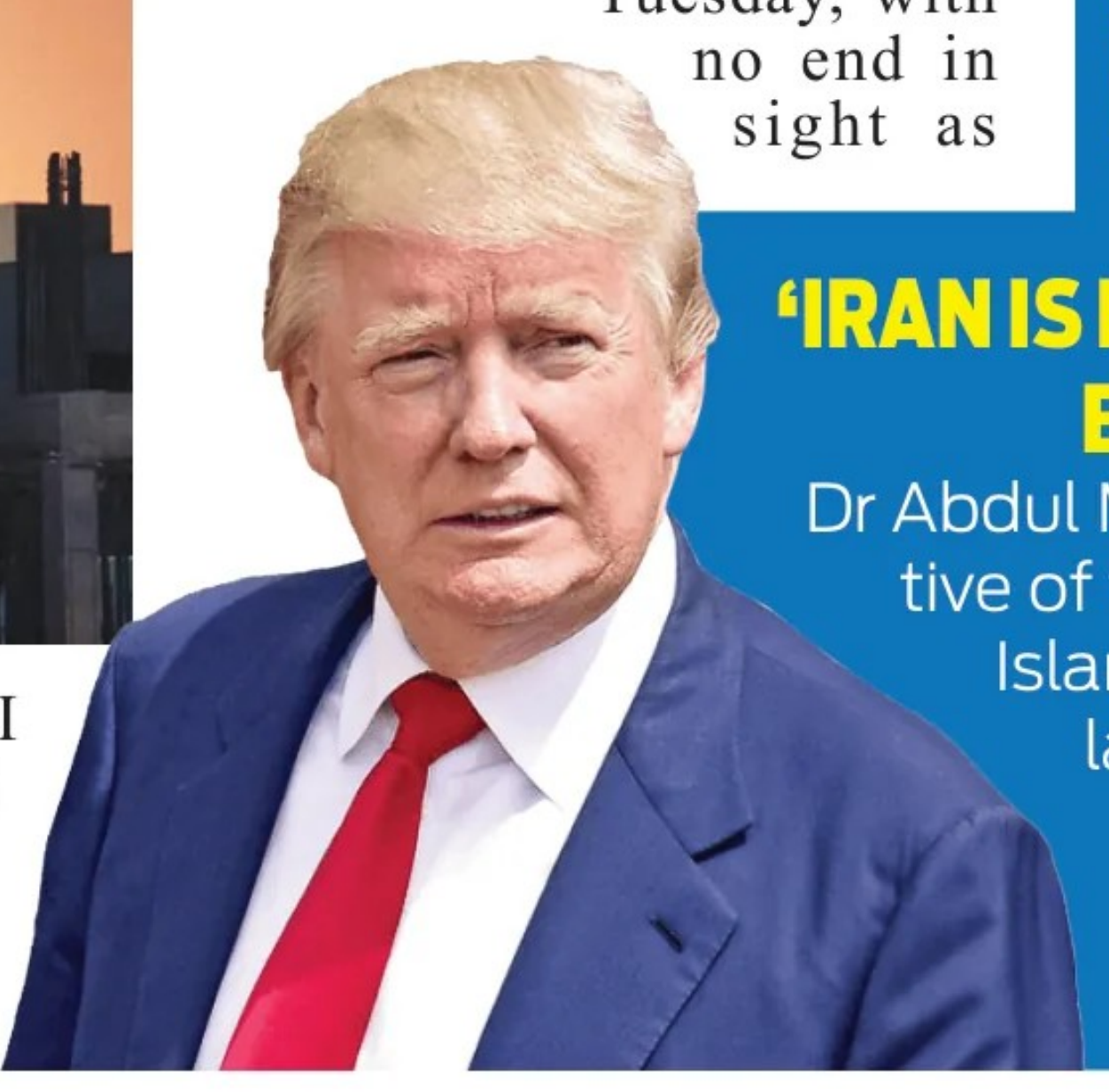
Speaking to media, Trump did not rule out sending United States troops on the ground, leaving open the possibility of a broader military campaign. "I don't have the yips with respect to boots on the ground, like every president says, 'There will be no boots on the ground.' I don't say it," Trump said. "I say 'probably don't need them,' (or) 'if they were necessary.'"

Since Saturday afternoon (India time), US-Israel forces have launched ballistic missiles, including Tomahawks from warships in the Persian Gulf, and conducted air strikes using F-22 'Raptor' and F-35 stealth fighters. Iran retaliated with missile barrages and suicide UAV attacks, with Shahed drones targeting United States military bases, Israel, and civilian sites in neighboring Gulf nations.

The US and Israeli air war against Iran widened on Tuesday, with no end in sight as Israel attacked Lebanon in response to strikes by Hezbollah and Iran kept up its attacks on Gulf states that host US military bases. US President Donald Trump said the operation could continue for weeks and that it was unclear who was in charge in Iran after the targeted killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Israeli military has issued evacuation warning for another area in Tehran, signaling imminent intensified strike.

CONTINUING TO STRIKE IRAN 'WITH FORCE': NETANYAHU

We continue to strike Iran with force. Our pilots are over the skies of Iran and Tehran, and also over the skies of Lebanon. Hezbollah made a very big mistake when it attacked us. We have already responded forcefully, and we will respond with even greater force," Israeli PM Netanyahu stated.



'IRAN IS READY FOR NEGOTIATIONS BUT WITH DIGNITY'

Dr Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi, representative of the late Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said, "Iran is ready for negotiations but with dignity".

IN SHORT

- Israeli and US forces continue their assault on Iran as the death toll rises to 787 people
- US closes embassies in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and tells nonessential staff in other countries to leave.
- US State Department asks Americans to leave 14 Mideast countries
- Israel pushes into southern Lebanon and seize land, seeking to blunt Hezbollah threat
- The American Embassy in Saudi Arabia hit by two drones on Tuesday.
- Global markets tumble as war intensifies; oil and gas prices are up, while share prices go down.
- Russian President Putin signals mediation effort as strikes on Gulf escalate
- Iran boasts it has enough uranium for 11 nukes; continues to attack sites across Israel, with the Israeli military reporting missile interceptions over West Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Eilat. At least 10 people have been killed in Israel since Saturday.
- Russia distances itself from ally Iran amid Gulf tensions
- US President Donald Trump criticises Keir Starmer for initially denying access to British bases
- South Korea evacuates 62 people from Israel
- Atomic agency head says no proof of Iran weapons programme
- US President Donald Trump says the military campaign against Iran could last about four weeks, saying Washington will do whatever it takes to destroy Tehran's missile and nuclear capabilities.

Creating buffer zone in Lebanon: Israel military

The Israeli military on Tuesday said it was creating a buffer zone in Lebanon, shortly after the defense minister ordered troops to seize more positions across the border.

"In practice, Northern Command has moved forward, taken control of the dominating terrain, and is creating a buffer, as we promised, between our residents and any threat," military spokesman Effie Defrin said in a televised statement.

37 Indian-flagged ships with 1,109 sailors stuck in Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman

NEW DELHI

At least 37 Indian-flagged ships with over 1,000 seafarers are stuck in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the adjoining sea areas as the key shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz is closed due to the ongoing military actions involving the United States, Israel and Iran, as per sources.

While some ships are carrying crude oil and LNG to Indian ports, others are on the way to bring petroleum products from the Gulf nations.

According to official sources, the Directorate General of Shipping is in regular touch with the shipping companies and is closely monitoring the situation.

At least three Indian seafarers on board foreign-flagged vessels were killed, and one was injured in West Asia due to the current conflict.

A dedicated quick response team has been set up by the Shipping Ministry to enable timely coordination among authorities, ensure immediate response to emerging situations and facilitate prompt assistance to Indian seafarers and their families.

Shipping companies and Recruitment and Placement Service Licensees (RPSLs) have been advised to exercise caution in crew deployment and maintain regular communication with seafarers and their families. Helpline numbers have also been activated and shared with the families of the seafarers through RPSLs.

3 INDIANS KILLED, 20 HURT

At least three Indians were killed in Iranian strikes on vessels in waters off Oman, and 20 others were injured as the war in West Asia widened in scale and scope. The Indian Embassy in Oman Monday confirmed that a citizen was killed on board MKD Vyom, which was attacked by an unmanned boat off the coast of Muscat. Two Indians on another merchant vessel, MV Skylight, died in strikes, government sources said.

Energy infra hit

Iran has struck energy infrastructure across the Gulf, sending global oil and gas prices sharply higher. Qatar's state-owned petroleum company has suspended all LNG production after two of its facilities were hit.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps says the Strait of Hormuz – through which a fifth of the world's oil consumption passes – is now "closed", and warns that any vessels attempting to pass through the waterway will be attacked.

Gaza crossing reopens for first time since Israeli attack on Iran

JERUSALEM

Israel authorities on Tuesday said they have reopened its main crossing point with the Gaza Strip - a crucial route for humanitarian aid to enter the war-torn territory - for the first time since it carried out air strikes on Iran.

The UN and aid agencies had warned that the closure of crossings meant Gaza was rapidly running out of stocks of food and fuel. Panic buying sent prices soaring on local markets.

The Israeli defence body Cogat, which controls the crossings, said that the closure of Kerem Shalom was due to "the missile threat" endangering both Israeli and Palestinian workers. It previously insisted that existing supplies would "suffice for a while".

RS ELECTIONS - 2026

BJP fields 9, Nitin Nabin from Bihar

NEW DELHI

BJP'S RS CANDIDATE LIST

BIHAR: Nitin Nabin and Shivesh Kumar
ASSAM: Terash Gowalla and Jogen Mohan
CHHATTISGARH: Laxmi Verma
HARYANA: Sanjay Bhatia
ODISHA: Manmohan Samal and Sujeet Kumar
WEST BENGAL: Rahul Sinha

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has released its first list of nine candidates for the 2026 Rajya Sabha biennial elections, setting the stage for a political churn in several states, with Bihar emerging as a key battleground.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the party announced names cleared by its central election committee for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls.

Nitin Nabin is currently an MLA from the Bankipur Assembly constituency. With his move to the Rajya Sabha, he will have to resign from the Assembly seat, making a by-election in Bankipur inevitable. He belongs to the Kayastha community and is considered an important organisational face in the state unit.

The second nominee, Shivesh Kumar, comes from a Scheduled Caste background. A former MLA, he was fielded by the party from the Sasaram Lok Sabha seat in 2024 but lost the election. He is a former IAS officer and the son of former BJP MP Munilal Ram.

The announcement has also triggered fresh speculation around Upendra Kushwaha. With the BJP deciding to field two of its own candidates from Bihar, questions remain whether Kushwaha will emerge as a fifth NDA nominee. If that happens, securing the required number of MLAs could prove challenging, potentially setting up a contest with an RJD candidate.

PM Modi speaks to Oman, Kuwait leaders as Gulf conflict deepens

NEW DELHI

PM Modi on Tuesday held separate telephonic conversations with Haitham bin Tarik of Oman and Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, continuing India's diplomatic outreach as tensions intensify across West Asia.

The calls came a day after Modi spoke with leaders of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Jordan, amid a widening conflict across the Gulf region. The escalation has led to airspace closures and raised concerns over oil supplies and energy infrastructure.

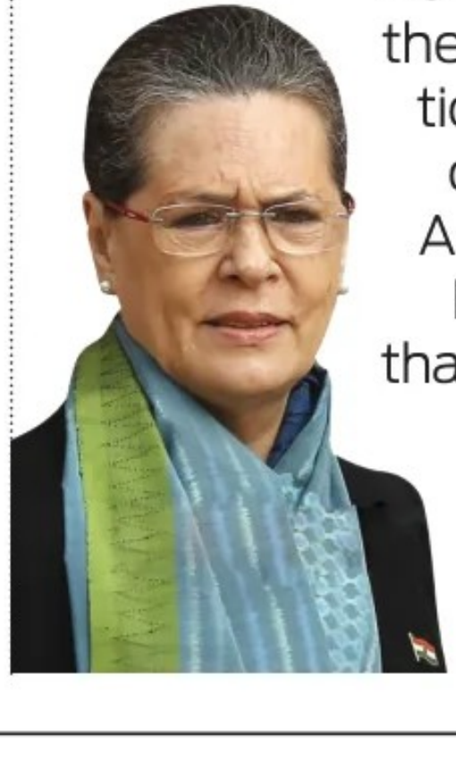
During his conversations with the Omani Sultan and the Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Modi expressed concern over attacks in Gulf countries and discussed the safety of the Indian community residing there. Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) voiced grave concern over the rapidly deteriorating situation in Iran and the Gulf. It reiterated that the safety and well-being of nearly one crore Indian nationals in the Middle East remains a top priority.

Indian embassy shifts majority of Indian students out of Tehran

India on Tuesday said its mission in Iran has relocated the majority of Indian students from Tehran in view of the precarious security situation in the Iranian capital city. India's move came as the conflict in West Asia intensified with the US and Israel carrying out fresh attacks on Iran while Tehran continued to pound several Gulf countries in retaliation. "Due to the heightened risk perception in Tehran city, the embassy of India has relocated most Indian students who were in Tehran," the Indian mission said.

Sonia attacks Modi govt over silence on Khamenei killing

NEW DELHI: In a scathing criticism of the Modi government, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said its silence on the targeted assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is not neutral but an abdication, and raises serious doubts about the direction and credibility of India's foreign policy. The former Congress president demanded that when Parliament reconvenes for the second part of the Budget session, the government's "disturbing silence" over the breakdown of international order must be debated openly and without evasion. In her article published in a prominent newspaper, Gandhi wrote that there is an urgent need for "us to rediscover" the moral strength and articulate it with clarity and commitment. She cited Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, stating that it "prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state'"



Heated Exchange Between Minister Mankal Vaidya and MLA Satish Sail at Karwar ZP Meeting

Tensions flared during a Karwar Zilla Panchayat development review when Health Minister Mankal Vaidya and ruling party MLA Satish Sail clashed sharply over medicine shortages, prompting the legislator to storm out of the session.

KARWAR

A routine Zilla Panchayat development meeting held on Monday at the ZP hall turned contentious when discussions on the Health Department escalated into a loud confrontation between District In-Charge Minister Mankal Vaidya and Karwar MLA Satish Sail.

While addressing the issue of medicine availability, MLA Satish Sail asserted that several hospitals were facing acute shortages of essential drugs. Minister Vaidya refuted the claim, insisting no such scarcity existed, and directed the District Health Officer (DHO) to provide clarification. The DHO supported the minister's position, stating that overall medicine stocks were adequate.

Unconvinced, MLA Sail raised his voice emphatically, declaring that shortages did exist. This provoked an angry response from the minister, who told the legislator to "sit quietly" and remarked that if Sail could not handle the situation himself, the government would take care of it.

Incensed by the comment, Satish Sail retorted that he was "not an angutha chap" (not a thumb-impression signer or pushover), stood up in fury, and walked out of the meeting.

The minister made no attempt to restrain or pacify the MLA. The direct verbal clash between a senior ruling-party legislator and the in-charge minister left officials present visibly stunned.

Upon learning of the incident, Superintendent of Police Deepan M.N immediately arrived at the venue, ascended the dais, and took a seat to monitor proceedings.

Earlier in the same meeting, differences had already surfaced between Minister Vaidya and MLA Sail on topics such as shortages of KSRTC buses for public transport and delays in replacing electricity poles and wires. The disagreement reached its peak during the Health Department segment.

QUICK READ

Woman Falls from Scooter, Injured; Rider Booked for Rash Driving

Karkala

A woman sustained head injuries when she fell from a moving scooter on the Pulkeri Bypass road in Ajekar area of Karkala taluk. The incident involved Raju from Ajekar, who was riding the scooter and carrying his acquaintance Poornima, also from Ajekar, as a pillion rider. While travelling along the bypass, Poornima lost balance and fell onto the road, resulting in a head injury. She was immediately shifted to a private hospital in Udupi for treatment. According to the complaint, the accident occurred due to Raju's careless and negligent driving. A case has been registered at Karkala Town Police Station.

Manjeshwar Police Bust MDMA Haul; Two Arrested

Kasaragod

Manjeshwar police, in a joint operation led by Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police, recovered 38.23 grams of MDMA from a vehicle during a late-night check near Mangalpady Taluk Hospital. The arrested suspects are Ibrahim Suhail (23), resident of Safa Nagar in Pachambala, Kubanoor, and Muhammad Anasuddin (20), from Adka Kulak Road in Bandiyod. The raid was carried out around 12:30 am on March 1 based on reliable secret information. The narcotic was found hidden behind the driver's seat in the car. Police also confiscated ₹1,62,500 in cash, one mobile phone, and an electric weighing scale used for measuring drugs. The vehicle itself has been impounded.

Man Collapses During Morning Walk, Dies After Returning Home

Udupi

Tragedy struck in Uppunda village when a man who had fallen ill while walking in the early morning hours passed away at home shortly after returning. The deceased has been identified as Puttamane Sitarama Kharvi (52), a resident of Janata Colony in Uppunda. On the morning of March 2, he went out for his routine walk. During the activity he collapsed in the middle of the road but managed to regain composure and walk back home. Upon reaching the house he informed family members about the incident on the way. Moments after speaking with them, he collapsed again and fell seriously unwell. Family members immediately rushed him to Byndoor Community Hospital. Doctors there examined him and declared him brought dead.

Bus Bursts into Flames on Belur Road; 32 Passengers Escape

Chikkamagaluru

A sudden blaze engulfed a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation bus on Tuesday afternoon while it was travelling along Belur Road in the city, close to the Junior College. The bus, belonging to the Chikkamagaluru depot and bound for Hassan, was moving under scorching sunlight when flames erupted unexpectedly from the engine compartment. Alerted immediately, the driver pulled the vehicle to the roadside and urgently instructed all passengers to disembark. Thanks to his swift response, the 32 people on board managed to exit safely without any injuries or loss of life.

Vinay Kumar Sorake Declares Kambala Ground-Breaking Ceremony Illegal Due to No Land Transfer

UDUPI

Former minister has challenged the February 28 land puja for the upcoming Kambala, calling it unlawful since the required 6.30 acres have not been officially handed over by the district administration.

Former minister Vinay Kumar Sorake criticised the district administration for proceeding with the ceremonial ground-breaking for the Udupi Kambala event without proper legal handover of the designated land.

He clarified that he has no objection to holding the Kambala itself, but stressed it must be organised as a district-level event under the administration rather than being branded as a BJP-affiliated programme. Adequate measures should be taken to ensure local residents face no inconvenience from the event, he demanded during a press conference held in the Udupi Press Club.

The land earmarked for the Kambala in Badagubettu falls under the jurisdiction of the Youth Services and Sports Department, yet no formal transfer to the organising committee has taken place, and the district administration has issued no corresponding decision or order. Sorake accused the local MLA of levelling baseless allegations against him to cover up procedural lapses.

He pointed out that attempts to conduct Kambala on forest department land would violate forest laws, leading to a case being registered by the department. For the past 40 years, ten families have been cultivating that land, and any disruption to their livelihood must be avoided.

He said he had already brought these issues to the attention of the in-charge minister, resulting in the cancellation of the planned foundation stone-laying ceremony scheduled for March 4.

Sorake reiterated that he is not opposed to Kambala in principle. During his tenure as MLA of Puttur, he personally initiated and organised the first-ever Puttur Kambala. He condemned the ongoing efforts to tarnish his image with unfounded accusations under the guise of the Kambala issue.

Congress district president Ashok Kumar Kodavoor, along with prominent leaders Harish Kini, Santosh Bairampalli, Ismail Atrad, and Santosh Kulal, were present at the press meet.

Kapu MLA Suresh Shetty Gurme has countered claims of procedural lapses, stating the district administration officially allotted 6.30 acres to the Youth Empowerment Department long back, and accused former minister of politically sabotaging the event at the last minute.

Land Approval for Udupi Kambala Was Granted Six Months Ago: MLA Suresh Shetty Gurme

UDUPI

Kaup legislator Suresh Shetty Gurme has asserted that the district administration, after due verification by the Deputy Commissioner and other officials six months earlier, formally approved 6.30 acres of land for the Udupi Kambala and transferred it to the Youth Empowerment Department.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, he explained that the Kambala committee was formed on a non-partisan and secular basis. An invitation was extended to the district in-charge minister, who gave consent. The invitation carried photographs of Congress leaders, he noted.

Former minister Vinay Kumar Sorake exerted pressure on the in-charge minister to halt the event, continuing what Gurme described as politically motivated interference.

He alleged that Sorake, unable to tolerate development in the Kaup constituency, is resorting to petty politics. If such confrontational tactics persist, black flags would be shown to the district in-charge minister, Gurme warned.

MLA V. Sunil Kumar stated that whether or not the government provides funds for Kambala is its prerogative, but the organising committee will proceed with the event regardless of financial support.

MP Kota Srinivas Poojari remarked that attempts are being made to intimidate organisers by registering cases simply because the foundation stone has been laid. If such incidents continue, he said, all MLAs from the district will join in protests.

The press meet was attended by MLAs Yashpal A. Suvarna and Kiran Kumar Kodgi, former MLA Lalaji Mendon, BJP district president Kutyaru Naveen Shetty, and Dinakar Shetty Herga.

Kaup Blessed to Become a Pilgrimage Centre: Puttige Swamiji

KAUP

Temples serve as the very heart of a village, and participating in divine service brings balance and rhythm to devotees' hearts, observed Shri SugunendratirthaSwamiji, head of Shri Puttige Math, Udupi. He stated that after the revival and re-consecration of Shri Mariyamma temple in Kaup, the place has evolved into a prominent pilgrimage site.

The seer delivered these benedictory words during the valedictory ceremony of the "Mata Vaibhava" utsava, organised to mark the first anniversary of the re-installation of Goddess Shri Mariyamma at Shri Hosa Marigudi temple.

Industrialist and philanthropist Anand M. Shetty, who inaugurated the event, described serving at the feet of Kaup's divine mother as a rare fortune for everyone involved. He expressed deep satisfaction that the wealth received as prasada from the goddess during difficult times had been offered back in service to her.

Chief priest Vidwan Kumara Guru Tantri Korangrapadi explained the significance of the Mata Vaibhava festival. Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty Belapu, president of the Navadurga Lekhana Yajna Samiti, presided over the function.

Among the chief guests were MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty, former MLA Lalaji R. Mendon, Development Committee President Rajarshi K. Vasudeva Shetty, Management Committee President Nadikere Ratnakar Shetty, Honorary President Ravi Sundar Shetty (Mumbai), Bombay High Court advocate Mahesh Kotyan (Mumbai), UAE Committee President Vakvadi Praveen Kumar Shetty, and State Religious Council member Mallika P. Pakkal among others.

Clash Over Ramadan Donation Collection; Stones Thrown, 10 Arrested

SHIVAMOGGA

Tensions flared in Shikaripura town on Sunday when two factions within the local Muslim community clashed violently over the collection of donations for Ramadan celebrations, leading to stone-throwing and the arrest of 10 people by police.

The conflict arose after a meeting at the mosque decided that every household should contribute ₹1,000 towards the festival expenses. One section opposed the mandatory amount, sparking heated arguments that soon turned physical. Both sides began hurling stones, sticks, and whatever objects they could find at each other along the Shikaripura–Shiralakoppa main road.

The confrontation caused temporary suspension of traffic movement on the busy stretch. Officers from Shikaripura Town Police Station rushed to the spot, brought the situation under control, and took 10 individuals into custody. All those arrested have been remanded to judicial custody, police sources confirmed.

Women Embody Dharma from Birth to End, Says Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar emphasised that a woman represents dharma throughout her entire life—from birth until her final moments—and lives guided by it every day.

She was speaking after inaugurating the "Dharma and Women" programme, held as part of the Shri Jagadguru Renukacharya Jayanti Yugamanotsava and the Kshetranatha Shri VeerabhadraswamiMaharathotsava, organised by Shri Jagadguru Rambhapuri Veerasimhasana Mahasamsthana Peetha in Balehonnur, NR Pur taluk.

Citing examples from epics, she noted that Sita brought fame to the Treta Yuga, Draupadi to the Dwapara Yuga, and today in the Kali Yuga, every household is illuminated by the light of women.

Sharing her personal background, the minister recalled growing up in a family of five daughters and one son, where her parents raised all six children with complete equality and no discrimination. It was this cultural upbringing, she said, that enabled her to rise to the position of minister in a state of 7.5 crore people.

She explained that when a girl is born first in a family and a boy follows, the elder sister becomes not just an "akka" but a second mother to her brother. Even between brother and sister, the sister often assumes a maternal role toward her sibling. The legal marriage age of 18 for girls and 21 for boys, she added, reflects society's recognition of a woman's early maturity and capability.

Women shoulder diverse responsibilities at every stage of life, she continued. They possess the strength to sustain their households—whether through borrowing or hard labour. While women may not match men in physical strength, they surpass them in mental resilience, standing firm for their children's and family's future. She urged everyone to lead lives filled with self-respect.

The minister observed that society reveres wind, water, earth, stones, plants, trees, and vehicles through worship, yet humans have reached a point where people harbour hatred toward one another. To preserve and strengthen dharma, she called for socially oriented actions.

In her own home, she said, the guru parampara holds the highest place, and her family continues to nurture that tradition. Women play a central role in sustaining and propagating guru lineages and cultural values, often through great personal sacrifice.

She praised matts for functioning on par with the government, working with social commitment. Witnessing their efforts in anna (food), akshara (education), arogya (health), and krishi (agriculture) fills her with immense pride in being born into the Veerashaiva-Lingayat faith.

Such events bring together gurus from all religions—Hindu, Jain, Christian, Muslim, Sikh—united in spreading the same core message. She quoted Guru Nanak on truthful living, honest work, and helping others; Prophet Muhammad on surrender, justice, compassion, and equality; Jesus Christ on love and forgiveness as the foundation of Christianity; Gautama Buddha on dharma as a path to end suffering and attain mental peace; and Mahavira on non-violence, truth, sacrifice, and discipline in Jainism.Hinduism, she said, seeks the well-being of all living beings with the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family).

In an open era like this, she criticised those who claim one religion is good and another is not, stirring emotions among innocent children and youth. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, she said one should avoid seeing, speaking, or hearing evil. What matters is not how long we live, but how we live. She concluded with a call for victory to human dharma and peace in the world through true religion.

The minister announced that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has already assured government assistance for the Renukacharya statue being built by the peetha, former CM Yediyurappa had also offered support, and she herself would extend help to the extent possible.

QUICK READ

Digital Gold Investment Scam Nets ₹10.55 Lakh

Mangaluru

Mangaluru has reported yet another case of online financial deception involving so-called digital gold investments. The victim was drawn in through a link that appeared on their Instagram account, prompting them to register on what seemed like a legitimate gold market platform. Once enrolled, the operators convinced the individual to transfer money in instalments to various accounts they specified. Over time, a total of ₹10.55 lakh was sent across these transactions. The app displayed an impressive balance of ₹60 lakh in the investor's account, creating the illusion of substantial profits. However, when the person attempted to withdraw any amount, the option was unavailable, and no funds could be retrieved. Realising they had been defrauded, the complainant approached Kankanady Rural Police Station, where a formal case has now been registered against the unidentified culprits behind the scheme.

Classes Likely at Koila Vet College Next Year

Mangaluru

Animal Husbandry and Sericulture Minister K. Venkatesh said efforts are underway to start first-year classes at the newly constructed Veterinary College in Koila, Kadaba taluk, from the coming academic year. The foundation stone for the college was laid in 2016 by then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The building works have now been completed and necessary teaching and non-teaching posts sanctioned. Approval from the Veterinary Council of India is awaited. The campus includes college blocks, hostels and laboratories. As many as 13 faculty and 32 other staff posts have been cleared. The Minister also reviewed the Livestock Breeding and Training Centre and asked officials to prioritise conservation of rare breeds and promote value-added livestock and poultry products. He directed steps to encourage dairying as livestock numbers are declining in Dakshina Kannada. He further instructed relocation of sanctioned veterinary hospitals where land is unavailable and called for action on complaints against insurance firms over delayed livestock claims. A polyclinic has been sanctioned for Puttur.

Minister Pushes Early Start for Koila Veterinary College

Mangaluru

The State government is making serious efforts to commence academic activities at the Koila Veterinary College from the next academic year, said Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh after inspecting the campus on Tuesday. The college infrastructure, including hostels and laboratories, has been completed. Faculty and staff posts have been sanctioned, and approval from the Veterinary Council of India is expected shortly. During a review meeting, the Minister stressed strengthening livestock breeding, introducing new breeds and boosting dairy promotion in the district. He also directed officials to address issues relating to livestock insurance claims and expedite works for the sanctioned polyclinic at Puttur.

Vittla Town Panchayat Moves Toward Uniform Tax and Fee Structure After Long Delay

VITTLA

Vittla has functioned as a town panchayat for the past eleven years, yet a standardised set of bylaws governing taxes and fees remained absent until recently. Even though house tax, commercial tax, and building-related charges were being collected, significant inconsistencies persisted across different areas and categories, leading to repeated complaints from the public.

Recognising the need for fairness, members of the town panchayat passed a resolution during a general meeting to introduce uniform rules applicable to both urban and rural portions of its jurisdiction.

To support this decision, the chief officer examined various existing documents and prepared a draft bylaw. The proposed framework includes seven specific sub-clauses designed to eliminate disparities and ensure the same policies apply everywhere within the panchayat limits. A preliminary notification was issued on January 23, 2026, inviting objections until February 28. That deadline has now passed, paving the way for final decisions to be taken impartially.

The new bylaws are scheduled to take effect from April 1, coinciding with the start of the fresh financial year. While the move aims to create equity, many citizens express deep apprehension over potential hikes in rates and fees. Some residents openly state they preferred remaining under a gram panchayat, where regulations and charges were generally lighter and less rigid.

Particular worries centre on anticipated rises in several categories. Water charges could climb from 110 rupees to 120 rupees, no-objection certificates from 500 to 1,000 rupees, electricity connection certificates from 500 to 1,000 rupees, residence certificates from 200 to 300 rupees, solid waste management fees, charges for starting certain businesses, and building designer licences from 1,000 to 3,000 rupees.

Banner and other advertisement fees are expected to see substantial increases as well. Additionally, renewing building construction permits for a second year would require paying the full original amount again, which many view as an unfair financial strain.

Officials counter that the proposed rates in Vittla remain lower compared with those in other town panchayats, and residential building permit fees have not been raised at all—continuing at the earlier rate of 35 rupees per square metre.

Despite these assurances, public sentiment remains strong that town panchayat status has brought more burdens than benefits. Without a corresponding rise in own-source revenue or external grants, development work suffers, yet ward members are not receiving adequate funds for local projects as requested. Citizens argue that instead of imposing heavier levies, authorities should secure funds through other departments and elected representatives.

Meanwhile, since the formation of the town panchayat, locals have highlighted numerous ongoing grievances through messages and public appeals, demanding responses from the administration. Key concerns include rural students in the panchayat area being denied rural scholarship benefits, schools in zones A and B missing out on HRMS financial aid and transfer incentives—leading to teacher disinterest in postings there—and the absence of headmaster appointments in zone A schools due to government policy.

Further issues involve mandatory transfers after ten years of service in zone A schools, prompting teachers to seek routine transfers to avoid the requirement, the inclusion of surrounding low-population villages lacking basic infrastructure and transport during the panchayat's creation, the non-availability of zilla and taluk panchayat development grants for local schools, exclusion from the MGNREGA scheme affecting farmers unfairly, and the non-applicability of land regularisation schemes such as akram-sakram, NCR, and 94C that benefit gram panchayat areas.

Advanced E-Mobility Vehicles Handed Over to Differently-Abled Students at NITK Surathkal

MANGALURU

Petronet MHB Limited, through its CSR initiative, donated GPS-enabled e-cycles and motorised wheelchairs to NITK Surathkal's differently-abled students, enhancing campus mobility with locally designed smart features.

A special ceremony at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) Surathkal saw the transfer of smart e-mobility vehicles to students with disabilities. Sudhir Kumar, Managing Director of Petronet MHB Limited and an alumnus from the 1989 Mechanical Engineering batch, presented the vehicles alongside NITK Director Prof. B. Ravi.

The handover included 25 e-cycles and 7 motorised wheelchairs, all equipped with GPS tracking and smart lock technology. These vehicles were conceptualised, designed, and fabricated within the institute by Associate Professor Dr. Prithviraj. Every unit is compatible with the "Urja" solar charging station, established in 2022 with support from the 1970 batch alumni.

Funding for the project came from Petronet MHB Limited (a subsidiary of ONGC and HPCL) under its 2025–26 CSR programme.

Addressing the gathering, Sudhir Kumar explained that campus navigation remains a major hurdle for differently-abled students even after securing admission to premier institutions like NITK. To address this, his company sponsored the e-cycles and wheelchairs, which feature app-based controls and other modern enhancements developed internally at NITK. He expressed personal delight at collaborating once again with his alma mater.

Prof. Ravi welcomed the CSR contribution from Petronet, noting that the vehicles will allow students to move independently across the campus, attend classes, and participate in various activities with greater ease. He highlighted the pride in having these advanced mobility solutions created entirely by NITK faculty and students, describing the partnership as an excellent example of how industry and academia can jointly benefit society.

Someshwara Youth Ends Life in Oman Over Unrequited Love

MANGALURU

An incident has shaken the Someshwara area of Ullal after a local resident employed in Oman reportedly hanged himself inside his accommodation. The deceased has been identified as Puneeth Poojary, aged 32, elder son of Chandra and Deepa, longtime residents of the locality.

Puneeth had been employed with a company in Oman for the past one-and-a-half years. He returned home to Ullal just about six weeks ago before heading back to resume work.

Family members and acquaintances revealed that he had been emotionally attached to a young woman from Mangaluru's Urwa area for roughly four years. In recent times she stopped responding to his calls and messages, effectively turning down his affections.

Deeply hurt by the rejection, Puneeth streamed a live video on social media in which he proceeded to end his life by hanging in his room. The act has left relatives and the community in profound shock.

Due to the prevailing unrest across parts of the Middle East, legal and administrative procedures in Oman are expected to take longer than usual. Relatives have expressed serious concern that this could delay the repatriation of his body to India significantly.

HD Deve Gowda Performs Pooja at Kukke Subrahmanya Temple

SUBRAHMANYA

HD Deve Gowda, former Prime Minister of India and current Rajya Sabha MP, arrived at the renowned Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple early on Monday morning to fulfil his religious vows. After performing the sankalpa, he offered the Aslesha Bali and received prasada. He then had darshan of the deity.

Later, in the outer courtyard directly in front of the sanctum, he participated in the Tulabharaseva. Temple chief priest Ramesh Nuritthaya honoured the former Prime Minister by draping a shawl over him and presenting mahaprasada. Deve Gowda proceeded to offer prayers and receive prasada at the Hosaligamma shrine before partaking in the temple's prasadabhojana.

The Enforcement Directorate has filed its final charges in the special PMLA court against Roshan Saldanha, Daphne Neetu D'Souza, and others for allegedly laundering proceeds from a massive loan scam that duped businessmen of nearly ₹50 crore.

ED Submits Prosecution Complaint in Multi-Crore Fraud Case Against Roshan Saldanha and Associates

MANGALURU

Authorities from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have lodged a prosecution complaint in the city's special court handling Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) matters, targeting Roshan Saldanha, Daphne Neetu D'Souza, and several accomplices in a high-value cheating and laundering probe.

The case stems from complaints lodged in June and July 2025 by different agencies, accusing the group of misleading numerous entrepreneurs with offers of low-interest loans. Funds were extracted under the pretext of "stamp duty" payments, leading to widespread deception.

On February 27, the ED formally presented its detailed report before the PMLA special court, naming Roshan Saldanha, Daphne Neetu D'Souza, Sunil Ferrao, G. Ravi, M/s Yahvivi Ventures Pvt. Ltd., and M/s Dubois Production Pvt. Ltd. as respondents.

Investigators determined that from October 2024 to July 2025, the main accused—Roshan Saldanha and Daphne Neetu D'Souza—amassed roughly ₹49.45 crore via newly formed entities linked to Sunil Ferrao (M/s Akshaya Agencies), G. Ravi (M/s Balaji Enterprises), and M/s Yahvivi Ventures Pvt. Ltd.

Rather than disbursing loans as promised, the funds were diverted for personal use, business interests, and routed through fictitious companies.

During searches conducted on August 5, 2025, at five locations in Mangaluru, officials recovered crucial documents. Bank accounts holding about ₹9.5 crore were frozen, and fishing boats were seized.

Under Section 5 of the PMLA, properties valued at ₹2.85 crore—comprising movable and immovable assets—have been provisionally attached. The complaint invokes offences under Section 3 (money laundering) and Section 4 (punishable offence) of the 2002 Act. The ED confirmed that further inquiries continue.

SSLC Helpline Launched for Students

MANGALURU

A helpline has been launched for SSLC students appearing for examinations to address exam-related stress, fear and doubts. Students and parents can call 0824-2451239 from Monday to Saturday between 10.30 am and 5 pm, and on Sunday from 10.30 am to 1 pm. The Deputy Director of the School Education Department said queries will be recorded and solutions provided, with expert support and coordination from the Health Department.

Applications Invited for Minority Residential Schools

MANGALURU

Applications are invited for free admission to Class VI in minority residential schools in Dakshina Kannada for 2026-27. Eligible Muslim, Christian, Jain, Sikh, Buddhist and Parsi students can apply online through the Seva Sindhu portal by March 7. Admissions are open at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Residential School, Ullal (CBSE) and Government Muslim Residential School (State syllabus). Free education, boarding, uniforms and books are provided.

Lokayukta Catches Mangaluru PWD Assistant Executive Engineer in ₹22,600 Bribery Case

MANGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta police have arrested Sampath, Assistant Executive Engineer at the Electricity Sub-Division, Public Works Department, Mangaluru, after he allegedly demanded and accepted a bribe of ₹22,600.

The complainant is a government-recognised Class-I electrical contractor who executed streetlight extension works in various gram panchayats of Udupi district during the 2025 financial year. According to the complaint, the engineer demanded 4 per cent of the bill amount—totaling ₹22,600—as bribe for processing and releasing the payment.

A case was registered against Sampath at the Mangaluru Lokayukta Police Station. On March 2, 2026, while receiving the bribe amount of ₹22,600 from the complainant, he was apprehended in a carefully laid trap by the Lokayukta police team. He has been taken into custody, and an investigation is underway.

Senior RSS Functionary Satish Prabhu Passes Away in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

Senior functionary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and former spokesperson of the Dakshina Kannada unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Satish Prabhu (59), passed away on Tuesday morning at Yenepoya Hospital in the city.

A resident of Car Street in Mangaluru, Prabhu reportedly collapsed at his residence earlier in the morning. He was immediately rushed to Yenepoya Hospital for treatment. Doctors who examined him stated that he had suffered a brain haemorrhage. He is said to have breathed his last during the course of medical attention. Prabhu is survived by his wife and a son.

Associated with the RSS since his childhood, Prabhu served the organisation in various capacities as a dedicated swayamsevak. He was actively involved in several socio-religious activities in the city. He served as a trustee of the Car Street Sri Venkataramana Temple and was the vice-president of the Keshava Samvardhana Samiti at Sanghaniketan near Mannagudda. He also functioned as secretary of the Sanghaniketan Public Ganeshotsava Committee.

Though he had strong connections with senior leaders in the RSS and BJP, Prabhu led a simple life and ran a small printing press near Kadri.

After years of active service in the BJP, he briefly joined the Congress following dissatisfaction over lack of recognition, but later returned to the BJP at a public event in the city. His passing has left many supporters in the RSS and BJP grieving.

QUICK READ

Lift Malfunction Traps Six, Police Rescue All

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Six residents, including four women and two men, were rescued after a lift malfunctioned at a four-storey residential complex in Siddanna Layout, Banashankari. The occupants had boarded the elevator from the fourth floor when it suddenly crashed down and halted about a foot above the ground floor. The lift, which has a capacity of six persons, then developed a technical snag and its doors got jammed, trapping them inside. The residents alerted police, who informed Hoysala 148 personnel. Assistant Sub-Inspector K.H. Gowda and Head Constable Manjunath pried open the doors using an iron rod. A technician later repaired the lift within 20 minutes. All occupants were rescued safely.

HC Extends Interim Protection to Ranveer Singh till March 9

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has extended till March 9 the interim protection granted to actor Ranveer Singh in connection with a case over alleged mimicry of a character from the film Kantara Chapter 1. On February 24, the court had directed Bengaluru police not to take coercive steps against the actor, subject to his cooperation with the investigation. Senior advocate Sajan Poovayya submitted via video conference that Singh could not return to India due to flight disruptions amid tensions in the Gulf region. The prosecution said the actor had sought time to respond to police notices. Justice M. Nagaprasanna adjourned the matter for a week while continuing interim relief.

Two Abu Dhabi Flights Land in Bengaluru amid War Tensions

Stranded passengers finally return home after anxious two days

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Two flights from Abu Dhabi carrying hundreds of stranded passengers landed at the Kempegowda International Airport amid escalating tensions in the Middle East following the outbreak of war between Iran and Israel.

Air services across several Middle Eastern nations were suspended after the conflict intensified, leaving thousands of Indian nationals, including many from Karnataka, stranded in Gulf countries such as the United Arab Emirates. The uncertainty triggered anxiety among passengers and their families back home.

Flight operations from Abu Dhabi resumed after a two-day suspension. The first aircraft, carrying 210 passengers, touched down safely in Bengaluru at 10 pm on Monday. A second flight arrived at 3:20 am on Tuesday, bringing another 300 passengers home.

Relieved travellers described tense moments during their stay. Girimallappa, who arrived from Abu Dhabi, said airline services had abruptly shut down due to the conflict. "Naturally, we were worried. We stayed safely in a hotel while waiting. There were many passengers once flights resumed, but arrangements were made to operate 15 flights daily. We were transported safely to the airport," he said.

Another passenger, Yoganand from Andhra Pradesh, recalled hearing explosions near his hotel following reported missile strikes. "Fighter jets were flying over the airport. It was very scary. We were frightened until the plane landed in India. I am very happy to finally return home," he said.

The crisis unfolded after airspace closures across parts of the region following reported joint strikes by Israel and the United States on Iran, leading to widespread flight cancellations.

The Indian government has initiated measures to assist citizens stranded in the Gulf, coordinating with airlines and diplomatic missions to facilitate their safe return. Authorities indicated that additional flights may be arranged depending on demand and evolving security conditions.

For the passengers who stepped onto home soil in Bengaluru, however, the overwhelming feeling was relief — a collective sigh after days of uncertainty in a volatile region.

KIA Launches Kerbside Support Hub at Terminal 2 amid Global Disruptions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As tensions escalate between Iran, Israel and the United States, global aviation has been severely impacted, with widespread airspace closures and flight diversions disrupting international travel. In response, Kempegowda International Airport has introduced a comprehensive kerbside Help Desk at Terminal 2 to support stranded international passengers.

The newly established Help Desk functions as a single-window support hub, bridging the gap between travellers and airline ground staff during delays and diversions. With several international carriers facing operational challenges, the facility ensures passengers receive timely guidance even before airline representatives arrive. Services include real-time updates on flight schedules, assistance with onward travel arrangements, airport navigation support and emergency coordination where required.

Recognising the stress caused by prolonged uncertainty, the airport has also expanded welfare amenities at the kerbside. Stranded passengers are being provided drinking water, light refreshments and comfortable seating areas to ease wait times. On-site medical assistance has been arranged to address health concerns, while complimentary sanitary pads are available to support hygiene needs.

Wheelchair help desk - Terminal 2
Lane 1, next to Drop-off 2

Families travelling with infants can access a temporary feeding facility, and passengers requiring mobility assistance can request wheelchairs. Charging stations for mobile phones and laptops have also been installed, enabling travellers to remain connected and receive crucial updates amid rapidly changing flight schedules.

Airport authorities said the initiative reflects a proactive approach to managing an evolving global crisis. By consolidating information and welfare services in one accessible location, the airport aims to reduce confusion and ensure dignity for passengers navigating travel disruptions.

At a time when international aviation faces unprecedented strain, Bengaluru Airport's Terminal 2 support hub offers reassurance and practical assistance to travellers caught in uncertain circumstances.

I am a street fighter; it is their mistake if someone thinks I am quiet: DCM

BENGALURU

DK Shivakumar described himself as a "street fighter," asserting that silence should not be mistaken for weakness. "I am a street fighter and I know how to fight. But my fight is not for power. The fight is not inside the party but outside," he told reporters at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. Emphasizing that his political journey has been rooted in action, not ambition, Shivakumar said he had never spoken publicly about the Chief Minister's post. "I don't want to damage the party or trouble party workers. At any cost, the party should not be affected by me," he said, adding that leadership decisions were between him, the Chief Minister and the party high command. Recounting his record, he pointed to Covid-era interventions, including distributing financial aid to distressed workers and pressing for relief measures. "This is my track record as a fighter," he said.

Contractors Announce March 6 Strike Over ₹1,600 Cr Pending Dues

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Municipal Corporation Contractors' Association and the Karnataka State Contractors' Association have called for a symbolic strike on March 6, alleging massive payment arrears and prolonged administrative inaction.

At a preliminary meeting held at Vijayanagar Club in Bengaluru, contractors from across the city resolved to halt work for a day to press for the release of pending dues. According to association leaders, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) owes contractors nearly ₹2,600 crore. While about ₹1,000 crore has been released in phases, ₹1,600 crore remains unpaid. Security deposits for projects completed nearly five years ago are also yet to be refunded.

Statewide, contractors claim dues across various departments have touched ₹37,000 crore, with delays stretching beyond three years. Association leader R. Manjunath said repeated appeals to the Chief Minister have not yielded results. He alleged that meetings with senior officials are routinely postponed, leaving contractors struggling to service bank loans and manage mounting debts.

Contractors maintain that unless arrears are settled and systemic reforms introduced, they will intensify protests and escalate their agitation across the State.

The associations further criticised the introduction of package tenders, alleging they promote corruption and favouritism. They accused certain legislators of executing projects in the names of relatives and collecting commissions. Leaders also claimed corruption transcends party lines and alleged higher "percentages" in recent years.

On March 6, work across projects under the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), GBA and the Public Works Department is expected to come to a standstill. Organisers estimate that between 15,000 and 20,000 contractors will gather at Freedom Park as part of the protest.

While the strike is planned as a one-day symbolic action, leaders have warned of an indefinite agitation from April if payments are not cleared. They are also considering a foot march from the Chief Minister's constituency to Bengaluru in the coming weeks.

JDS Sets One-Week Deadline to Identify GBA Candidates

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

JDS leader H.M. Ramesh Gowda has set a one-week deadline to identify party candidates for all 369 wards of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). He stated that the final list would be approved after scrutiny by State President H. D. Kumaraswamy.

Speaking at a meeting of GBA's five divisional presidents and Assembly constituency presidents at the party's State office, J.P. Bhavan, Ramesh Gowda said candidates must be shortlisted at the earliest as per the directions of the national and state leadership. Organisational strength and winnability will be the key criteria, he added, noting that clear instructions have been issued by the party high command.

He emphasised that the NDA alliance of JDS and BJP must come to power, calling it the resolve of H. D. Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy. Leaders and workers were instructed to work in their respective wards without causing any strain to the alliance. Ramesh Gowda also called for intensifying the membership drive at booth and ward levels and bringing active workers to the forefront. He said senior leaders are considering holding a massive convention in Bengaluru soon and urged everyone to work towards its success.

Several party leaders, including district presidents and former MLAs, were present at the meeting.

Kerala-Based Syndicate Linked to Thailand Mastermind Busted in City

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Narcotics Control Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru City Police has unearthed a major interstate drug racket, arresting two alleged peddlers, including a woman, in north Bengaluru.

The accused, identified as Ashwin (27) and Mubeena (25), both natives of Kerala, were apprehended within the limits of Bagalur police station. During the raid, officers seized 8,335 LSD strips, 5 kg of Hydro Ganja, 534 grams of charas, two mobile phones and a two-wheeler. The total value of the seized contraband is estimated at ₹11.50 crore.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the duo had been living in Bengaluru for the past year and were part of an organised drug distribution network. Police said they were allegedly sourcing narcotics from a Kerala-based handler currently residing in Thailand and distributing them locally under his directions, earning substantial illegal profits. A case has been registered under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is under way to trace other links in the network.

In a separate operation, CCB officials intercepted an international parcel containing 1.5 kg of Hydro Ganja worth ₹1.5 crore. The contraband was cleverly concealed inside chocolate and biscuit boxes.

PTCL Land Victims Announce Statewide Protest Warning

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Members of the PTCL Act Land Dispossessed Struggle Committee have announced a statewide protest, alleging that the government has failed to safeguard lands granted to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act.

Addressing a press conference at the Press Club, State President Manjunath said thousands of poor families are facing hardship due to alleged illegal land grabbing and misuse of amendments to the Act. He claimed that lands originally granted for livelihood purposes are being taken away through fraudulent means. Despite approaching officials such as the Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and even higher courts, affected families have not received justice, he alleged.

The committee has issued a ten-day ultimatum to the government to respond to their demands.

'Allocate ₹100 Cr for Journalists' Welfare Fund'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Working Journalists' Association (KUWJ) has urged the Chief Minister to extend the Chief Minister's Media Health Sanjeevini Scheme to all journalists. The association has also demanded that ₹100 crore be allocated in the Budget for the Journalists' Welfare Fund. In a memorandum submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, State President Shivanand Tagadur requested that ₹25 lakh each be granted to district journalists' associations for their welfare funds, and ₹10 lakh each be provided for taluk-level press buildings. The association noted that during the COVID period, the government provided ₹5 lakh compensation to the families of deceased persons. Similarly, it has urged the government to implement a scheme granting ₹5 lakh compensation to the families of working journalists who pass away while in service.

KAS Training at Haj Bhavan – 19 Students Selected for Interview

BENGALURU

Out of the students trained at the Maulana Azad IAS–KAS Pre-Examination Coaching Centre located at Haj Bhavan, 19 candidates have been selected for the KAS interview stage after clearing the main examination, said Minority Welfare Department Director Jilani Mokashi. The training has been provided for the past two years by the Directorate of Minorities Welfare. Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan congratulated the students who were selected for the interview after the main examination.

SOCIAL CONCERN

Two Friends Spend ₹1.4 Lakh to Transform City Stretch

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

What began as years of frustration over garbage and neglect has turned into a story of citizen-driven change in Jaraganahalli, JP Nagar 6th Phase, where two friends invested ₹1.4 lakh of their own savings to clean and beautify a public road stretch.

For over five years, 58-year-old Padmaja Mohan and her friend of 15 years, Savitri Krishnareddy, complained about the garbage-strewn road opposite Savitri's residence. The stretch, frequently used by commuters travelling between Bannerghatta Road and Kanakapura Road, had become an eyesore, with waste piling up and vehicles abandoned along the footpath.

The turning point came in January when the duo decided to act. An abandoned truck left unmoved for nearly three years became the immediate focus. With assistance from an inspector at the JP Nagar police station, the vehicle was finally removed, uncovering heaps of accumulated trash beneath it.

Savitri said the condition of the stretch was particularly worrying given the presence of nearby schools. Encroached pavements forced children to walk on the busy road, increasing accident risks. "We filed multiple complaints, but nothing changed," she said.

Determined to reclaim the space, the friends hired civic workers, cleared debris and supervised restoration efforts over nearly two months. Benches were installed to encourage responsible public use and deter fresh dumping.

Padmaja, a resident of Konanakunte Cross, said the decision to act brought immense satisfaction. "After years of merely complaining, we chose to stop waiting. Seeing the road clean and welcoming makes me truly happy," she said, adding that her family fully supported the initiative. To reinforce the transformation and prevent further misuse, the duo collaborated with city-based NGO Smitam. After obtaining approval from the local apartment association, around 50 volunteers painted a 200-metre mural along the compound wall in just five hours last Sunday.

Meghana Murthy, founder of Smitam, said the mural focuses on menstrual hygiene and women's empowerment. "Public art in busy neighbourhoods helps spark conversations and break stigma," she noted. What was once a neglected dumping ground now stands as a clean, vibrant reminder of how civic responsibility can reshape public spaces.

QUICK READ

Helpline Launched for Residents Stuck Abroad

Chikkaballapur

A helpline has been started for residents of Chikkaballapur taluk stranded in conflict-affected Middle Eastern countries. District authorities have requested families and relatives to contact the Taluk Disaster Management Centre to provide details for necessary assistance. Information needed includes the traveler's name, age, parent/spouse name, passport number, mobile numbers (India and abroad), current location, country visited, purpose of travel, date of departure, and other relevant details. Residents can call the helpline at 08156-272564, said Taluk Tehsildar Rashmi, to ensure timely support and coordination.

Kaiwara Tatayya's timeless message inspires society: KVP

Prabhakar said Tatayya transcended caste, religion, and status biases, simplifying spiritual teachings for common people and marginalized communities

KOLAR

Chief Minister's Media Advisor K.V. Prabhakar said that Kaiwara Tatayya showed through his life that spirituality is not about outer purity but inner purity. He was speaking at the 300th birth anniversary celebration of the revered saint held in Kolar.

Prabhakar said Tatayya overcame the addiction to superiority based on caste, religion, gender, wealth, and status through his own spiritual experience. Known publicly as "Tatayya," Sri Yogi Narayana Yathindra made complex spiritual ideas simple and reachable for common people, especially the marginalized.

Describing Tatayya as one of Karnataka's greatest saints, philosophers, and social reformers, Prabhakar noted that he composed philosophical verses in both Kannada and Telugu. Like the Sufi saints, Tatayya showed that spirituality is a path of inner transformation, not rituals or external practices.

He said Tatayya's work Kala Gnana remains relevant even after 300 years. The text warned about moral decline, greed for money, weakening family bonds, and the commercialization of education. Tatayya predicted that truth would lose value, and selfishness would grow in society.

Prabhakar added that Tatayya also foresaw environmental destruction and natural disasters caused by human actions, including droughts, floods, and diseases from polluted air and water. He even described scientific developments through metaphors such as "iron horses running" and humans flying like birds, which reflect modern trains and airplanes.

Importantly, Tatayya did not write Kala Gnana to create fear. His message was that devotion, humanity, and control over the mind can help people overcome difficult times. "Even if times change, inner purity will guide us," Prabhakar said.

Several dignitaries, including MP Mallesh and ADGP Devaraj, attended the event, which celebrated Tatayya's lasting influence on society.

Yoginareyan Yathindra inspires society with teachings

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Additional District Magistrate Dr. N. Bhaskar said that Sri Yoginareyan Yathindra of Kaivara, who taught humanity the truth of life and spiritual values, has become a beacon for society. He made the remarks after paying floral tributes to Kaivara Tatayya's portrait during the Jayanti celebration organized by the Kannada and Culture Department, District Administration, and Zilla Panchayat at the District Magistrate's Office Hall on Tuesday.

Dr. Bhaskar highlighted that Yathindra was a wise man, social reformer, and saint whose teachings continue to influence people of all communities. The government's official celebration of his birth anniversary aims to convey his philosophies to present and future generations. He urged everyone to understand and adopt the ideals of great men like Tatayya.

Community leader S.N. Narayanaswamy said it was gratifying that the government recognized Tatayya, known as a Siddhi Purusha, who shared knowledge of time and life with the world. Film artist and community leader Narasappa described Yathindra as a miracle man, praising his extraordinary knowledge that continues to inspire people today. Venkatappa emphasized the importance of passing Tatayya's literary and spiritual principles to the next generation.

The event included performances of kirtans composed by Kaivara Tatayya by Narayanaswamy and Sharada Mathad teams. Students of the community were felicitated, and hundreds of devotees attended, including Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Atik Pasha, Assistant Director D.M. Ravikumar, and leaders such as Sridhar Babu, Narasimha Murthy, Krishnamurthy, and Mallikarjun.

Dr. Bhaskar said Yathindra, a saint and reformer, continues to inspire all communities, and the government's celebrations aim to convey his ideals to future generations

Sheshannakumar said the 35-year project faces negligence threatening farmers' livelihoods, urging central and state governments to release funds promptly

Farmers demand funds for Bhadra river project

CHITRADURGA

Farmers and leaders of the District Irrigation Struggle Committee expressed strong anger over delays in completing the Bhadra Upper River Project, saying officials and politicians are showing indifference.

Speaking on the second day of the indefinite hunger strike by the State Raitha Sangh at Onake Obavva Circle, senior leader R. Sheshannakumar demanded that central and state governments either release funds immediately or step down.

Sheshannakumar reminded that the project was achieved after a 35-year struggle led by farmers, workers, and several organizations. He said the negligence threatens the livelihoods of farmers and the contractors working on the project. "Central government should release Rs 5,300 crore, and the state Rs 5,000 crore. Delay is unacceptable," he warned.

Convener G.S. Ujjinappa said the reservoir is full, yet water is not being released due to officials' lack of commitment. Farmers are forced to bore wells at high cost, while politicians give empty assurances.

The hunger strike participants, including K.T. Thippeswamy, declared they are ready to die if funds are not released. Six farmers have joined the fast, emphasizing that lakhs of people depend on Bhadra water.

Other leaders present included Jogimatti E. Maheshbabu, Basavareddy Bedarreddyhalli, and leaders such as Veeranna Reddihalli, Sidramappa, Santhimmanna, Mallapura Thippeswamy, and others.

Kaivara Tataiah remembered as social visionary

CHITRADURGA

Kaivara Tataiah, also known as Yogi Narayana Yathindra, was remembered not only as a yogi but also as a visionary social reformer, said literary scholar and M. Basavaraj. Speaking at the Jayanti celebrations held at Valmiki Bhavan, Basavaraj highlighted Tataiah's philosophical works in Kannada, Sanskrit, and Telugu, including Vedanta Saravali, Kalajna, and Atmabodhamritas.

Tataiah, who lost his parents at birth and began life as a humble bangle seller, transcended worldly struggles to compose profound spiritual and social guidance.

His writings, including Kala Gyan, addressed social inequalities, predicted political and social changes, and emphasized inner purity over ritualistic practices.

The celebrations, organized by the Zilla Panchayat in collaboration with the Kannada and Sanskrit Department and the Municipal Council, included felicitation of students excelling in SSLC and PUC exams.

Community leaders and associations praised Tataiah's life as a guide for social upliftment and empowerment, urging the Balija community to embrace education alongside traditional professions.

A grand procession was held, offering floral tributes to Tataiah's portrait near Neelkantheshwara Temple and proceeding through Gandhi Circle, SBI, and Madakari Nayak Circle to Valmiki Bhavan. Portraits of Jyoti Ba Phule, Savitri Bai Phule, Vijayanagara King Krishnadevaraya, and Bali Chakravarti were also carried in the procession.

Arasu Bhavan in Hunsur lies neglected for decade

HUNSUR

Satya MAS Foundation President Satyappa has expressed deep concern over the prolonged neglect of Arasu Kala Bhavan in Hunsur, the hometown of former Chief Minister D. Devaraja Urs. The building, constructed in 2015 at a cost of ₹9.5 crore, was meant to honor Urs's legacy but has fallen into disrepair due to the inaction of elected representatives.

The foundation's president highlighted that expensive window glasses installed in the building were broken by miscreants and later replaced by the Mysore Construction Center, leading to repeated public expenditure. "The building has deteriorated not by chance but due to the lack of will among our representatives," Satyappa said.

Arasu Kala Bhavan was intended as a cultural center celebrating Urs's contributions to social justice and land reforms. Despite repeated petitions from the foundation over the past ten years, officials have failed to release funds for its completion and inauguration. Satyappa noted that this neglect disrespects both the Urs family and the citizens of Hunsur, who take pride in their leader's legacy.

He appealed to the Chief Minister to allocate funds for the completion of Arasu Kala Bhavan in the upcoming budget and ensure its inauguration soon, emphasizing that it is a matter of honor for the community and a tribute to Urs's lifelong service.

Silver Kavacha ceremony draws devotees

MAGADI

A large number of devotees gathered at Hucchahanumegoudana Palya in Magadi taluk on Tuesday for the silver kavacha ceremony of Sri Bhairaveshwara Swamy. The event was led by Chandrashekar Shivacharya Swamiji of Bettahalli Math, who said that religion alone can bring true peace and prosperity to society.

Speaking at the function, he said peace is more important than material wealth. He added that society can remain united only when people follow spirituality and moral values. He advised the youth not to blindly follow Western culture but to protect the traditions of our land. True religion, he said, teaches people to live together without caste or religious differences. Religious centers should guide and enlighten people, not just serve as places of worship.

KP Development Committee State President H.M. Krishnamurthy said the silver kavacha was offered for the welfare of the country. He recalled building a Bhairaveshwara temple and installing a Kempegowda statue in the village years ago. He said the deity's blessings would bring peace and development to Magadi.

During the ceremony, special rituals like Panchamrutha abhishekam, Ganapati Homa, and other pujas were performed. Priest Kiran Dixit placed the new silver kavacha on the idol amid chanting of mantras. Devotees said the sight of the deity in silver armor filled them with joy and peace. Several religious leaders and local dignitaries attended the program, and food was arranged for all.

Magadi rangoli contest adds spark to Jatra

MAGADI

The Jatra Mahotsav of Sri Basaveshwara Swamy, Maramma Devi, and Anjaneya Swamy in Tatavaal village came alive with a vibrant rangoli competition, showcasing the creativity of women and girls from the region. Held on the main road and temple premises, the contest saw hundreds of participants decorating spaces with colorful and eco-friendly rangolis made from grains, flower petals, and traditional powders. Designs included images of Basaveshwara Swamy, Nandi, Lingas, Teru, and various floral patterns, adding a festive and cultural touch to the celebrations.

BMRDA President Tataval Prakash said the Jatra Mahotsav, not held for around 30 years, has been revived with active participation from neighboring villages including Magadi town, Tatwal Gollara Hatti, and Jamasaab Palya. He noted that cultural programs like rangoli competitions strengthen the village bond, preserve traditions, and enhance the fair's appeal.

Jutnahalli VSSN Vice President Rajashekar highlighted that the contest reinforces religious practices and will continue to include prizes for art and cultural performances in future editions. Winners were awarded attractive prizes, with BMRDA President Prakash distributing awards to seven top participants.

Alongside religious rituals, the fair included folk art, sports, and cultural events, creating enthusiasm among villagers.

Former Gram Panchayat member Manjunath, Dairy President Shekhar, Annappa, Rajanna, and other local leaders were present to support the festivities. The Jatra Mahotsav was conducted in a non-partisan and inclusive spirit, leaving the village buzzing with joy.

Robotics society launched at Siddhartha College

TUMAKURU

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Student Chapter was officially launched at Sri Siddhartha Institute of Technology in a colorful ceremony held on campus.

The event marked a new step toward strengthening robotics education and research among students.

The chapter was inaugurated by Dr. Nippun Kumar A.A., President of the State Unit of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society. Speaking on the topic "Building Intelligent Machines in the Age of Artificial Intelligence," he said strong leadership in robotics can be achieved through clear vision and technical skill. He stressed that artificial intelligence must be used in an ethical and responsible manner.

Dr. Nippun Kumar said AI development should focus on human-robot teamwork and building trust in society. He highlighted the need for transparency, innovation, and emotional intelligence while managing rapid industrial growth.

According to him, dynamic teams and responsible leadership are key to success in robotics.

Dr. Srikanteshwara Swamy, Research Coordinator at the institute, said the student chapter is not just a club but the start of a structured system for learning, research, and collaboration. Faculty advisor Dr. Komala added that student platforms play a vital role in promoting technical excellence and innovation.

Professors Dr. Suresh and Dr. Manu, along with students Harshita B.S. and Drishthi C., were present at the event. The launch aims to build a strong robotics community within the college.

Public library invites objections on 2022 books

HAVERI

The Karnataka Public Library Department has published the state-level selection list of books first printed in 2022. The list is available at all district and city central libraries and on the official website Karnataka Public Library Department. Authors, publishers, and booksellers whose works are included can submit written objections or corrections regarding the book title, author/publisher name, cover page, size, page count, or other technical details. Submissions, with supporting documents, must reach the Commissioner, Public Library Department, Visvesvaraya Main Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru, by 5:30 PM on March 16, 2026. Late appeals will not be considered.

COMMUNITY HEALTH MATTERS

Community role vital in saving mothers, babies

CHITRADURGA

Community support and active involvement of health workers are key to reducing maternal and infant deaths, said Dr. Syed Bilal. He was speaking after inaugurating a one-day workshop on maternal and child health at Gyan Vikas English Medium School in the city.

The program was organized by the District Health and Family Welfare Department, St. John's Medical College and Hospital, and Karnataka Health Promotion Trust. Dr. Bilal stressed that awareness at the grassroots level can greatly lower risks for mothers and newborns.

ASHA and Anganwadi workers were trained on pregnancy care, newborn care, Kangaroo Mother Care, breastfeeding, nutrition, safe delivery planning, and prevention of anemia. School Administrator Rajesh Madari, Secretary Manoj, teachers, health inspectors, nurse mentors, and several local health officers attended the workshop. Organizers said such programs help build a healthier and safer community.

QUICK READ

Ballari man reported missing, public help sought

BALLARI

Umesh (36), a resident of Bhatti area in Kaul Bazar, has been reported missing. He left home on February 26, saying he was going to another town for work as a lorry driver, but did not return. Authorities have registered a case and requested public assistance in locating him. Umesh is about 5'2" tall, fair-skinned, with a round face and an old scar near his left eye by the nose. He was last seen wearing a khaki half-sleeve shirt and khaki pants. Information can be shared with Kaul Bazar Police at 08392-240731, 08392-244145, or mobile numbers 9480803047, 94808203084, 9480803085.

Loan distribution program scheduled in Haveri

HAVERI

A loan distribution program in collaboration with the district administration will be held on March 6 at 11:30 AM at the District Panchayat Hall under the chairmanship of MP Basavaraj Bommai. Beneficiaries of various government schemes, including PM Swanidhi, PM Vishwakarma, N.R.A.M-SHG, NUAIM, PMFAE, PMEGP, MUDRA, and death compensation under PMJJBY and PMSBY, will receive sanction letters during the event. The District Agrani Bank Chief Manager urged eligible participants to attend and make use of the financial assistance provided through these programs.

CEO urges wider awareness on farm schemes

The meeting reviewed nine agricultural schemes, directing officers to promote subsidies and ensure timely delivery of machinery to farmers

MANDYA

The Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayat, Nandini K.R., has directed Agriculture Department officials to create wide awareness about government schemes so that every eligible farmer can receive benefits on time. She spoke during a review meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat mini hall on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on the progress of nine major agricultural schemes aimed at improving farmers' income and productivity. The CEO instructed officers to spread information at the taluk and village levels about subsidies available for agricultural machinery and ensure that equipment reaches farmers without delay.

Under the Hi-Tech Harvester Hub Scheme, she stressed proper use of funds and asked officials to inform farmers about machine availability, rental charges, booking systems, and maintenance support so that harvesting work runs smoothly.

She also reviewed schemes that promote value addition of local products such as cereals, mushrooms, honey, and traditional food items. Officials were told to help farmers improve quality, packaging, and market access to increase their earnings.

The CEO emphasized support for natural farming, irrigation facilities, rainwater harvesting, and crop processing units. She called for training programs on multi-cropping and encouraged the cultivation of nutritious crops like groundnut and sesame.

She further asked officers to motivate farmers to achieve higher yields and win more state-level awards. Quick response to farmers' problems and better coordination at all levels were strongly advised.

Senior agriculture officials attended the meeting and assured proper implementation of all schemes.

Parents urged to focus on education

MANDYA

Parents from the Banajiga community must give good education to their children and encourage them to use government facilities to succeed in society, said Mandya Sub-Divisional Officer M. Shivamurthy.

He spoke at the 300th Jayanti celebration of Sri Yogi Narayana Yathindra held at the Sri Yogi Narayana Yathindra Community Hall in Mandya. The programme was organized by the district administration, Kannada and Culture Department and Sarva Banajiga Sangha. Shivamurthy inaugurated the event by offering floral tributes to the saint's portrait. He said that even after 300 years, people still remember Kaivara Tataiah because of the strong values and guidance he gave to society. Quoting Kuvempu, he said humans are born as universal beings and should rise above narrow thinking through education.

Sarva Banajiga Sangha President K. N. Mohan Kumar said it was a proud moment to celebrate the birth anniversary of the great saint. He added that efforts would be made to publish the saint's works and poems in book form.

Retired lecturer K. N. Nagananda said Kaivara Tataiah, who lived for over a century, shared wisdom about life through songs and poems.

Holi festival brings colors, joy, and unity

HUNSUR

Holi, the festival of colors, brings people together across India to celebrate joy, love, and new beginnings. Unlike many festivals, Holi is celebrated by everyone, regardless of caste, religion, or background. Families and friends reunite, throwing colors, splashing water, and enjoying the lively spirit of the day.

Holi marks the end of winter and welcomes spring. People prepare by making colorful idols of Kama and decorating them on a special platform called Kama Katta. Villagers play music, throw colored powders, and sometimes even use colored water and dung balls, following old traditions with great enthusiasm.

The festival has deep mythological roots. One legend tells of Prahlada and Holika. Prahlada, a devoted follower of Vishnu, was targeted by his father, King Hiranyakashipu, and burned by Holika. Miraculously, Prahlada survived, while Holika perished, symbolizing the victory of good over evil. Another story celebrates the divine love of Radha and Krishna. Lord Krishna playfully sprayed colors on Radha and her friends, which is remembered today as part of Holi celebrations. Holi also carries symbolic lessons. The burning of Holika represents the removal of negative traits such as anger, greed, and lust. Throwing colors fosters social harmony and strengthens relationships by helping people forgive old grievances.

The bright colors of Holi also symbolize the awakening of nature after winter and the hope of renewal and prosperity.

The festival encourages everyone to celebrate responsibly with eco-friendly, chemical-free colors to protect health and the environment. Holi unites families, friends, and communities, spreading laughter, joy, and hope. Its essence is clear: evil cannot win over good, and every year brings a chance for fresh beginnings. This Holi, people are urged to enjoy the vibrant colors, strengthen bonds, and embrace the positive spirit of life.

MADIGA FORUM PROTESTS FOR FAIR RESERVATION

RAICHUR

The Karnataka Rajya Madiga Graduates Forum staged a massive protest in Raichur demanding internal reservation based on population for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Hundreds of members joined the agitation, raising slogans and accusing the government of denying social justice.

The protest began with a bike rally from Babu Jagjivan Ram Circle and moved through the main streets of the city. At Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Circle, protesters formed a human chain and expressed their anger. They also burnt effigies and portraits of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar and other ministers.

Leaders of the forum alleged that despite long-standing demands, the government has failed to provide reservation benefits according to population strength.

Meeting seeks security for Tungabhadra workers

RAICHUR

A major discussion demanding job security for Tungabhadra irrigation workers will be held on March 7 at Pandit Siddarama Jambaldinni Ranga Mandir in Raichur city. The announcement was made by K. Nagalingaswamy, President of AICCTU, during a press conference.

He said hundreds of workers have been serving in the Munirabad area under the Tungabhadra Irrigation Central Zone for the past 25 to 30 years. Despite their long service, many are still not recognized as permanent employees. The union is demanding that these workers be given continuous work and confirmed as permanent staff without further delay. Nagalingaswamy stated that the government's directives, along with approvals from the Managing Director and reports from sectoral officers, support providing job security. He stressed that these workers are the backbone of the irrigation project and deserve fair treatment, stable income, and dignity. The meeting aims to protect all their rights, including a living wage.

The conference will be inaugurated by former Labour Minister S. K. Kantha. AICCTU National Vice President Clifton D'Rozario and State General Secretary Maitreyi Krishnan will attend as chief guests.

Several trade union leaders, including M. Basavaraj, Aziz Jagirdar, Siddappa Gowda Yaramaras, Ram Reddy Kalmala, M. Rafi Maski, Sharanappa Udbal, Jagadish, Nisar Ahmed, and Bheemanna, were present at the press meet and urged workers to participate in large numbers.

Honnikeri temple set for major spiritual upgrade

BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale said that the historic Honnikeri Sri Siddeshwara Temple is set to become a major spiritual and tourist destination in the district. Speaking after performing a special Holi puja and inspecting ongoing infrastructure projects, he said the temple, surrounded by natural beauty, will soon have modern facilities for devotees. Dr. Beldale explained that a work plan worth six to seven crore rupees is underway. A new pilgrim hall costing around Rs. 3 crore will feature a spacious mantapa for ceremonies, a Dasoha Bhavan, and accommodation for visitors. Road improvements from the Bidar-Bhalki main road to the temple, costing Rs. 70 lakh, are also in progress, along with new bathing ponds and toilet facilities. The Tourism Department has sanctioned Rs. 2 crore for additional infrastructure development.

He noted that the temple attracts devotees from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, especially on full and new moon days. The goal is to ensure visitors enjoy a peaceful experience without inconvenience. Continuous efforts will be made to secure additional funds for development projects. Dr. Beldale also expressed concern for the cows at the temple. He found one cow in poor condition and instructed the temple management to provide adequate green fodder.

Protest in Hunsur demands restoration of MNREGA

HUNSUR

Hundreds of people in Hunsur came together in a foot march today to demand the restoration of the MNREGA scheme and oppose the anti-central government policy that established VB G Ram Ji. The march, led by former MLA H.P. Manjunath, started from the Congress office and passed through Constitution Circle, Old BM Road, Kalpataru Circle, and New BM Road, finally reaching the Sub-Divisional Officer's office.

The protest, organized under the name "MNREGA Bachao Andolan," included submitting a petition to SDO Kavyarani, urging the government to revive the rural employment guarantee program. KPCC spokesperson M. Laxman, speaking to reporters, highlighted that their struggle has led to some relief for farmers, including the recent tobacco price being fixed at Rs. 305 after intervention.

He criticized the state for undervaluing Karnataka tobacco compared to Andhra Pradesh, where it fetches Rs. 452. Manjunath expressed concerns about the ongoing destruction of MNREGA projects, saying, "There is no NREGA work during agriculture time. Our projects from 80 years are being ignored and insulted." He added that 1.10 lakh people benefit from MNREGA, which has allocated over Rs. 80,000 crore in 20 years.

The leaders also raised worries about renaming schemes after VB G Ram Ji instead of Gandhi, stating it disregards the legacy of Congress-led development. Manjunath stressed the importance of local leadership in keeping MNREGA alive and criticized central policies for failing rural communities.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, KAVERAMMA K T W/o late K M THIMMAIAH, R/o Biligeri, Madikeri, Kodagu, Karnataka-571201, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as CHONDAMMA in my husband PPO No-239039227911. The actual name of mine is KAVERAMMA K T, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, PAVITHRA BALLUPET RUDRESH W/o MAHESHA T.S., aged 37 years, residng at: No. 61, Pushpagiri Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Ward No.2, Vijayanagara, Ramanagara-562159, Bangalore South District stating that my original name is PAVITHRA BALLUPET RUDRESH, the said name is entered in my Passport No. R2907609. But in my husband's passport No. U6790351 my name is entered as PAVITHRA. Hence I am swearing to this affidavit to rectify / or prove that PAVITHRA BALLUPET RUDRESH and PAVITHRA are one and the same person. vide affidavit date: 28-02-2026 before Notary M.C. Devendra, Ramanagara.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MAHAMAD JAVED,** resident of No 43, 4th Cross, Venkata Shamappa Layout, Chamundi Nagar, Opp. Subhash Memorial School, R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED JAVED,** vide affidavit dated: 28.02.2026, before Notary N.NAGAPPA, Bangalore.

IN THE COURT OF V ADDITIONAL SESSIONS COURT, CHENNAI
A.S. NO. 227 OF 2025
Against
O.S.NO. 3514 OF 2014

Ms.Jayanthi ...Appellant
-Vs-
Ms.Bhooma Narasimhan and 5 Others ... Respondents

TO
Amrutha Parthasarathy
W/o. T.Parthasarathy
Flat 405, Building No.4,
Shanthi Park Apartments,
Jayanagar 9th Block,
Bangalore – 560 069

The Above Appeal Suit No. 227 of 2025, filed by my client Ms. Jayanthi against the order passed in O.S. No. 3514 of 2014, is pending before the V Additional Sessions Court, Chennai and the Above Appeal Suit No. 227 of 2025 is posted for hearing on 23.03.2026 and there fore you are hereby required to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the said date at 10:30 A.M., either in person or through your counsel, failing which the Hon'ble Court may be pleased to pronounce orders in your absence

V.K. VENGADESH DURAI RAJA
No. 227, Additional Law Chambers,
High Court Buildings,
Chennai – 600 104
Counsel for Appellant
Ph:77085 43130

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Sri.K Harinatha S/o K Narayanappa,Residing at Dhobipalya,Mulabagilu Town Taluk and Kolar District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at Dhobipalya,Mulabagilu Town Taluk and Kolar District, had published the factum of lost of her Original Regd Sale Deed,Dated;-12-06-2008, Regd Sale Deed Executed by Sri, B.R.Krishnaiah setty s/o Late, B.K.Ramayyashetty, in Favour of Sri.Venkatachalapathi in favour of C A S/o Late, C V Anjaneyappa, In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.MBL-1-00527/2008-09, in CDNO.MBLD 21,In regd before of the SRO Mulabagilu,police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2089384/2026, DATED;-02-03-2026, and complaint dated;-02-03-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place;-Chinthamani,
Date;-02-03-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL,
ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY,
BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA
TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD
CHINTHAMANI.M;-9980110692

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL AND J.M.F.C JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
C. Misc. No. 1018 /2025

PETITIONER: **Sri. KRISHNAPPA,** S/o Late NARASIMHAIAH, Aged about 75 years, Rat Kanivepura village, Tubgere hobli Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. V/S
RESPONDENT: Registrar of birth and death The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

1. It is hereby notified to the public that The above petitioner, in the Hon'ble court,his father Late Narasimaiah S/o Late Papanna, died on 09.12.1998 at kanivepura village, tubgere hobli Doddaballapur Taluk.and since there is no official records of his death, he has field an application to register the date of death in the register of births and deaths, 1969. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear before the above court on at 28.03.2026 11am, failing that, the case will be disposed of unilaterally in his absence.
The publication is dated 23.02.26 with the signature and seal of the court.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministrial Officer, Prl Civil Judge &
JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner:
Shushanth. R, Advocate

IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDL, CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
Cri.mis. No: 63/2026

Petitioner: **1. Sri. Kiran .N.M** S/o Mahadevaiah
2. Monika .N.M D/o. Mahadevaiah
3.Sri. Mahadevaiah S/o Pillabasappa All are residing at Nagasandra Village Kasaba Hobali, Doddaballapur
V/s
Respondent: The Thahasildar Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of her Mother of the Petitioner by name Smt. Prema W/O Mahadevaiah who died on 15.08.2017 at Nagasandra, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 06.04.2024 at 11-00 am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 3rd day of March 2026

By order of the court
Shirestedar, 1st Addl. Civil Judge, (Jr-Divn)
Doddaballapur
Advocate for Petitioner: **Harish K.,**
Doddaballapur-561203.

NAME CHANGE

I, **BALASUBRAMANYA BRAHMA LAKSHMINARAYANA KESTUR**, S/o Lakshminarayana Brahma Kestur, resident of No. 967 Dhwani, 2nd Block, SIR M Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560060, have changed my name to **BALASUBRAMANYA BRAHMA**, vide affidavit dated: 03.03.2026 before notary C.V. EARAPPA, Bengaluru

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, FARAS ABBAS HUSSAIN S/o AJAZ HUSSAIN, R/o No-18, Ground Floor, Hosa Road Circle, Electronic City, Manjunatha Layout, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHAHID HUSSAIN.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROOPA
D/o SRINIVASAMURTHY
T R, R/o No.18, 2nd Floor,
Madhu Mithra Layout,
Jigani, Bangalore Urban,
Karnataka-560105, have
changed my name and
shall hereafter be known as
KEERTHI. S.

NAME CHANGE

I, **JAMAL SHARIFF SHAIK HUSSAIN**, S/o Shaik Hussain, resident No 23, Flat No 301, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Kenchappa Road, Frazer Town,, Bengaluru-560005, have changed my name to **JAMAL SHARIFF**, vide affidavit dated: 03.03.2026, before Notary G.DAYANANDA, Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SUMA KESHAVE GOWDA**, W/o. Javare Gowda Narayana Gowda, resident of No 1575, 21t Main 5th A Cross, BSK 1 Stage, 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560050, have changed my name to **SUMA NARAYANA** GOWDA vide affidavit dated: 03.03.2026 before notary C.V. EARAPPA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SALMAN AHMED SAFEER**, S/o Safeer Ahmed, resident of No 111, B Block, Muzammil Residency, Govindapur, HKBK Engineering College, Bengaluru - 560045, have changed my name to **SALMAN AHMED**, vide affidavit dated: 03.03.2026 before notary C.V. EARAPPA, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

‘India holds adequate oil reserves to deal with Gulf crisis’

Govt assures 'robust energy supplies' amid Middle East crisis, 24x7 control rooms set up

NEW DELHI

India remains in a reasonably comfortable position with regard to crude oil, LPG and LNG supplies, even as disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz raise global concerns.

Government sources indicate that the country currently maintains a reserve of 25 days of crude oil and 25 days of petroleum products, including shipments already in transit to Indian ports.

India imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements, with nearly half traditionally sourced from Middle Eastern nations via the Strait of Hormuz. However, recent geopolitical tensions linked to the Iran conflict have impacted flows through the strategic waterway.

Officials emphasised that India has proactively diversified its energy basket over the past few years, increasing imports from Africa, Russia and the United States to reduce overdependence on any single route or region.

A senior official stated that state-run oil marketing companies — Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum — have sufficient supplies for several weeks and continue to receive shipments through multiple channels. To further strengthen domestic availability, the government has directed these companies to refrain from exporting petroleum products, thereby enhancing buffer stocks.

India has also bolstered its strategic petroleum reserves to cushion against supply shocks. The country maintains underground storage facilities at Pudur with a capacity of 2.25 million metric tonnes (MMT), Visakhapatnam with 1.33 MMT capacity, and Mangaluru with 1.5 MMT capacity. Additionally, another strategic reserve facility is under construction at Chandikhol along the eastern coast.

Officials said these reserves can be tapped during emergencies or periods of extreme global price volatility to stabilise domestic fuel markets and protect consumers.

FACTFILE

Based on Kpler inventory data, commercial crude stocks are around 100 million barrels, including volumes in the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) facilities at Mangaluru, Padur and Visakhapatnam.

With imports via the Strait of Hormuz averaging roughly 2.5 million barrels per day — about half of India’s just over 5 million bpd total crude imports — these combined reserves could theoretically cover around 40-45 days of imports in a crude disruption scenario, he said.

BJP fields Rahul Sinha for RS

KOLKATA

Former state president named party nominee as Bengal gears up for Upper House polls.

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday announced the nomination of senior leader Rahul Sinha as its candidate for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections from the state.

In an official statement, the party described Sinha as a prominent political figure in West Bengal and a seasoned organiser who previously served as the State BJP President and as the party’s National Secretary. The statement noted that during his tenure as state president, the BJP significantly strengthened its organisational base and actively participated in various political movements across West Bengal. It also highlighted his reputation as an outspoken and vocal political leader who has consistently taken strong positions on key issues.

Elections for five Rajya Sabha seats from West Bengal are scheduled to be held on March 16. Given the current numerical strength in the State Assembly, the ruling All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) is expected to comfortably secure four of the five seats, while the BJP is likely to win one.

The Trinamool Congress had earlier announced its four nominees for the Upper House. The candidates include former West Bengal Police Director General Rajeev Kumar; current West Bengal Information Technology Minister and singer-turned-politician Babul Supriyo; senior Supreme Court advocate Menaka Guruswamy, known for her role in the country’s queer rights movement; and popular Bengali actress Koel Mallick.

If no additional candidates file nominations before the deadline, the election process may become a mere formality. In such a scenario, the four Trinamool Congress nominees and the BJP’s candidate would be declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament.

Political observers note that while the outcome appears largely predetermined due to the Assembly arithmetic, the nomination of Rahul Sinha signals the BJP’s intent to maintain a strong presence in Parliament from West Bengal and reinforce its position as the principal Opposition force in the state.

Chouhan briefs VP on rural job, welfare schemes

NEW DELHI

C. P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday met Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minister of State Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani at Parliament House to review key welfare and employment schemes aimed at strengthening rural India.

During the meeting, the Vice President was briefed on a range of initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Development to accelerate rural transformation and enhance public welfare.

The discussions covered major focus areas such as housing for all, rural employment generation, skilling and capacity building, and measures to improve rural livelihoods.

Officials also apprised the Vice President of steps taken to strengthen community infrastructure, road connectivity, social assistance frameworks, watershed management, and digital land records modernisation.

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4 suspended after dog enters hospital mortuary

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has suspended four officials for negligence after a stray dog entered a government hospital mortuary in Jadcherla town and attempted to nibble on a dead body.

The incident, which occurred at the Area Hospital in Jadcherla of Mahabubnagar district, has sparked outrage and prompted immediate administrative action.

Taking serious note of the matter, Health Minister Damodar Raja Narsimha on Tuesday ordered the suspension of four officials, including the hospital superintendent. The decision followed reports that a stray dog had entered the mortuary premises and tried to bite the finger of a decomposed body that had been brought for post-mortem examination.

According to hospital authorities, the body of a 33-year-old man, who had died in a drowning incident, was brought to the old mortuary building at around 12.30 p.m. by the police. At approximately 5 p.m., a stray dog reportedly entered the facility and attempted to nibble on the deceased’s finger.

Staff members present at the time claimed they immediately chased the animal away before it could cause significant damage.

Subsequently, the duty doctor conducted the post-mortem in the presence of police officials, and the body was later handed over to the family members.

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017. Ph: 09448994705,
Email ID: gmproc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

CESC/GM(P)/AGM(P-1)/2025-26/40101 Date: 03-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for carrying out the following works on Rate Contract basis and to supply Materials;

Works:

Replacement of existing LT overhead by LT arial Bunched Cable in Hazardous location, Theft prone areas, slums, crowded public place, Narrow Roads, High interruption feeders, NJY Feeder crossing locations and schools / collages / Hostels premises etc. Total turnkey basis for the following Circles/Divisions of CESC.

Sl No.	Circle	Divisions	Enquiry No / Date
1	Chamarajanagara Kodagu	Madikeri	C2-6457/03-03-2026
2		Chamarajanagara Lot-1	C2-6458/03-03-2026
3		Chamarajanagara Lot-2	C2-6459/03-03-2026
4		Kollegala Lot-1	C2-6460/03-03-2026
5		Kollegala Lot-2	C2-6461/03-03-2026
6	Mandya	Mandya	C2-6462/03-03-2026
7		Madduru	C2-6463/03-03-2026
8		Malavalli	C2-6464/03-03-2026
9		Pandavapura	C2-6465/03-03-2026
10		K R Pete	C2-6466/03-03-2026
11		Nagamangla	C2-6467/03-03-2026
12	Hassan	Hassan	C2-6468/03-03-2026
13		Sakaleshpura	C2-6469/03-03-2026
14		Channarayapattna	C2-6470/03-03-2026
15		Holenarasipura	C2-6471/03-03-2026
16		Arasikere	C2-6472/03-03-2026
17	Mysore	Nanjanagudu Lot-1	C2-6473/03-03-2026
18		Nanjanagudu Lot-2	C2-6474/03-03-2026
19		Hunsuru	C2-6475/03-03-2026
20		KR Nagara	C2-6476/03-03-2026

Material:

Sl No.	Tender Name	Enquiry No / Date
1	Supply of 11KV Polymeric Pin Insulator on buy back basis to CESC.	C2-6477/ 03-03-2026

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03-03-2026.** For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/-
General Manager (Procurement),
CESC, Mysuru

DIPR/MYSORE/1774/SSC/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

ಸಂ.ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ/ಕೃರಾನ/ಎ.ಇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26 ದಿ: 27.02.2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ –ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 20/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು K.W–4 (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್) ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳು G.O. No. FD 9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06-08-2005 ಹಾಗೂ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ (ಸಿವಿಲ್) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **1)** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ (Upload) ಮಾಡುವ ಅಂದಾಜು ದಿ: 03.03.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ. **2)** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ನಲ್ಲಿ ದರ ನಮೂದಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 20.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ. **3)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 23.03.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ **4)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.1 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ಹುಣಸೂರು. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹುಣಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸಿಂಗರಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಅಸ್ವಾಳು, ಉಂಡವಾಡಿ, ಹೊಸರಾಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಹಿರಿಕ್ಯಾತನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ತೆಂಕಲಕೊಪ್ಪಲು, ಗೆರೆಸನಹಳ್ಳಿ,ಮತ್ತು ಮಾದಳ್ಳಿ ಕೊಪ್ಪಲು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪರಿಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಗಾವಡಗೆರೆ ಮಠದ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಸಿಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಧರ್ಮಾಪುರ,ಮುರಾರ್ಜಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಡಾಂಬರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (RDPR/202526/RD/WORK_INDENT24359).**ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 320.00 **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** Rs.2,68,10,483.61 **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** Rs 4,03,000.00 **ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ):** 9 ತಿಂಗಳು **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವರೂಪ:** ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 **ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು:** 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು. **ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ:** ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.2 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ಹುಣಸೂರು **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು/ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹುಣಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಿ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಹೊಸೂರು ಕೊಡಗು ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಬೀರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕಾವಲ್, ಕಡೆಮನುಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ದಾಸನಪುರ, ಪಕ್ಷಿರಾಜಪುರ–1, ಪಕ್ಷಿರಾಜಪುರ–2, ಅಜಾದ್ ನಗರ, ಗೌಡನಕಟ್ಟೆ, ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ25, ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪರಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. ಹಾಗೂ ಗದ್ದಿಗೆ–ಬಿಳಿಕೆರೆ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಯ ದೈತನಕೆರೆ ಹೋಗುವ ಡಾಂಬರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (RDPR/202526/RD/WORK_INDENT 24349) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 355.00 **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊಬಲಗು (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** Rs.2,97,54,303.56 **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** Rs 4,47,000.00 **ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ):** 9 ತಿಂಗಳು ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4 **ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು:** 2 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ:** ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು, ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08223–262228

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ನಗರ

DIPR/DDMYS/1765/KSMCA/997/2025-26

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, ‘ಡಿ‘ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ- 561203

ಸಂ.: DPA/TP/CLU/88/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14 (ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ‘ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ’ ವಲಯದಿಂದ ‘ವಸತಿ’ ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗಧಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (RTC ರನ್ವಯ)	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ.ನಂ	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ–ಗು)	ಬಿಐಎಎಪಿಎ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1.	ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಆರ್. ಓಬಳಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್॥ ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀ ಹನುಮಂತರಾಯಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇ॥ ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯ	ಯಲಹಂಕ	ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ 1	ಮತ್ತಕೂರು	125 ರ ಪೈಕಿ	2–10	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಷರಾ: ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುವುದರಿಂದ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು 'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ' ವಲಯದಿಂದ 'ವಸತಿ' ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ
ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
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contact: **080-41209042**

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagara Division
Bengaluru South District

No. EE/PWD/RD/TND-19/2025-26 Date : 02.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender invited from qualified contractors for the works through KPP portal as per standard bid document. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Documents may be downloaded from**: 03.03.202**6 & Last date for submission of tenders **Dt: 10.03.2026 up to 16.00 hours**. Date of opening of Technical bid **Dt: 11.03.2026 at 16.30 hours** (if possible). Tender processing fees & EMD as per KPP Portal. No of **works 04,** Estimate Cost **Rs. 6.34 lakhs to Rs.300.00 lakhs.** For more information contact the above office during office hours.

Note: Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagar Division, Bengaluru South District

DIPR/BSD/670/SA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -25/2025-26
Dated : 02.03.2026

Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan. SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -25/2025-26 Dated : 02.03.2026 The tender are invited by the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Hassan on be-half of the Governor of Karnataka through KPPP portal for the following works are sanctioned under the head of account of 2025-26TH CMIDP Grant The work details are available in the www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal. SL.NO.INDENT NO 01)RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 25163 AMOUNT PUT TO TENDER IN LAKHS Rs.146.82 lakhs 02)RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 25152 AMOUNT PUT TO TENDER IN LAKHS Rs.89.44 lakhs 03)RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 25143 AMOUNT PUT TO TENDER IN LAKHS Rs.94.09 lakhs THE IMPORTANT DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications 07.03.2026 16.00 hours Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 09.03.2026 16.00 hours Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 10.03.2026 16.05 hours Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid After approval of Technical bid

sd/- Executitive Engineer,
P.R.E.Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1133/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Jayanagar Shopping Complex, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011

No. EE/MI & GWD/BNG/AE-1/37/2025-26 Datd : 03.03.2026

Short Term Tender Notification

On the behalf of the Hon'ble of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P. with latest amendments, Item wise tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A : 4702 MOT from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. For further details, visit website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Name of the work: Improvements to Ulsoor Tank comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District Call-3.

Amount Put to Tender (Rs in Lakhs) : Rs.749.46, EMD in Rupees: **Rs.11,24,200/-**

Period of Completion: 11 Months including Monsoon,

(1) Tender will be published through KPPP Portal on Dated: **03.03.2026 at 16.30 Hours, (2)** Last date of queries: **13.03.2026 at 15.00 Hours, (3)** Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time: **09.03.2026 at 11.30 Hours, (4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders on Dated: **13.03.2026 at 16.30 Hours, (5)** Technical Bid will be opened on Dated: **16.03.2026 at 11.30 Hours, (6)** Financial Bid will be opened on Dated: **After approval of Technical bid.**

Conditions: 1) Terms and conditions and other details may be obtained through kppp portal at the website address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **2)** Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause KW-4 of ITT in Standard Tender document. **3)** Bidder should quote the rates Excluding GST. **4)** Rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of any or all Tenders.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division

DIPR/CP/5972/SHIRDI SAI/2025-2026

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – TIPTUR
TUMKUR DIST.

No: CMC/Tip/Tech/CR/171/2025-26 **Dated:27.02.2026.**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per KTTP Act 1999-2000 Rule 2000, Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Tiptur was invited Tender for Works under grants from eligible contractors who was registered in Public Works Department Tenderer can participate Tender for the following works in KPPP Portal website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Note: For more Information contact office during working hours.**

KPPP Portal					
Sl. no	WORK INDENT	Tender cost (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD Rs	Last Date of Tender	Date for Opening Tender
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55332	300.00	3,40,000/-	24.03.2026	25.03.2026

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Tiptur

DIPR/TUM/RO-286/25-26/Oysters

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-4/4702/TND/2025-26/4532 **Date:26.02.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through “E-Procurement” from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 4 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.2895.27 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.**

4702 SCP Works :- Total 3 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.2138.40 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **02.03.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **11.03.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501226 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **10.03.2026.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **07.03.2026** for work costing above 1.00 Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division, Vijaypur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/765/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

QUICK READ

Bengal LoP Suvendu Adhikari celebrates Dol festival

KOLKATA

Eyeing the crucial state elections in West Bengal and keeping in line with his focus to give Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee a tough fight in her constituency of Bhabanipur in South Kolkata, Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, organised a mass interaction there on Tuesday on the occasion of the Dol Yatra festival. Adhikari celebrated the festival in Bhabanupur with monks and the voters from the constituency. The participation of the LoP in the Dol Yatra festival at Bhabanipur was met with enthusiasm from both the local people and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers, who were present in large numbers.

Shinde arranges 2 special aircraft for stranded Maha citizens

MUMBAI

Amid the escalating tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday arranged two special aircraft to rescue citizens stranded in the UAE. The closure of Middle Eastern airspace had left several Indians including Maharashtrians stuck in Dubai and surrounding regions, prompting immediate intervention from the leadership. Following personal coordination by the Deputy CM of Maharashtra, two special Star Air flights are scheduled to depart from Fujairah Airport on Tuesday, Flight VTGSO: Scheduled takeoff at 3:30 PM and Flight VTGSH: Scheduled takeoff at 4:30 PM, said Dy CM Shinde's office in a release.

149 stranded Indians return home as AI operates 1st rescue flight

NEW DELHI

India's national carrier Air India on Tuesday brought back 149 stranded passengers from Dubai as part of special operations amid the ongoing situation in the Middle East. The flight, AI916D, landed safely at Delhi Airport at 10:58 am IST, according to the airline. The aircraft, bearing registration VT-EDC, carried a total of 149 passengers who had been stranded in Dubai due to the prevailing circumstances in the region. This marks the first flight operated by an Indian airline to bring back passengers during the current crisis in the Middle East.

Army ups vigil along LoC as drone sightings rise

Since 'Operation Sindoor', Pak could not infiltrate a single terrorist into India; as per intelligence reports over 1K terrorists of both Lashkar-e-Tayiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad are waiting at launchpads.

JAMMU

The Indian Army has intensified surveillance and monitoring along the India–Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir following a sharp rise in drone sightings and suspicious aerial objects.

The heightened vigilance comes amid repeated attempts from across the border to push drones and balloons resembling aircraft into Indian territory.

In a recent incident, Jammu and Kashmir Police seized a balloon designed to resemble an aircraft.

The object bore the inscription of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). According to officials, a preliminary probe found no electrical or electronic components attached to it. While the object did not pose an immediate threat, authorities have launched a detailed investigation to determine its origin and intent.

An Intelligence Bureau official stated that although the balloon caused no harm, it cannot be dismissed as a stray or isolated occurrence.

The development follows multiple instances where the Indian Army thwarted drone intrusions originating from Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC).

Most of the recent incidents have been reported in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Last month, at least two quadcopters attempted to breach Indian airspace in the Poonch sector. The Army responded with swift counter-drone measures, preventing any breach.

Officials indicate that these activities appear to be part of a broader strategy rather than sporadic events. Interestingly, unlike previous cases where drones were used to smuggle narcotics, arms, or conduct reconnaissance, recent sightings suggest a different pattern. Intelligence sources believe the objective may be to keep Indian security forces engaged and diverted.

One senior official suggested that such actions could be a deliberate tactic to create distractions while terror launch pads in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) are activated for infiltration attempts. According to intelligence estimates, over 1,000 terrorists affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed are reportedly waiting at these launch pads.

Since 'Operation Sindoor', security forces claim that not a single terrorist infiltration has succeeded, leading to mounting frustration among terror outfits.

Officials warn that while the number of suspicious aerial objects remains limited for now, there is potential for a significant increase in such attempts in the coming weeks.

Security agencies remain on high alert, reinforcing counter-drone capabilities and border surveillance systems to ensure that any infiltration or diversionary tactic is swiftly neutralised.

BJP claims TMC 'rattled' over deletion of ineligible voters

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday charged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with intentionally inciting controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to divert attention from her government's 'failures', and claimed that the Trinamool Congress was unsettled by the deletion of ineligible names from the voter lists.

BJP National Spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain launched a scathing attack on CM Mamata Banerjee, alleging that she wanted even deceased persons to remain on the voter list.

Mamata Banerjee wants even those who have passed away who are no longer alive to remain on the voter list, Hussain said. He further claimed that earlier, during Trinamool Congress' rule, one of their workers' names would appear in five constituencies, and he would move around casting votes throughout the day. Now, technically, only one name appears in one place. The infiltrators' names are being deleted. When all their names are deleted, they get very worried. In the election, they are going to lose badly. BJP is going to win, he asserted.

Hussain also alleged that CM Mamata Banerjee was trying to divert attention from her government's failures by raising questions over the SIR exercise and targeting the Election Commission. She does not want her government's work to be discussed, which is why she is making the SIR the main issue, he said.

Meanwhile, in Bihar's Siwan, state Minister Ashok Choudhary also reacted to CM Banerjee's remarks on the SIR process, advising her to seek legal recourse instead of making public statements.

She herself has approached the Supreme Court, so what is the point of speaking before the public? She should go to the Supreme Court again. If she believes that the Election Commission has done something wrong, then she should appeal in the Supreme Court, Choudhary said.

On the other hand, Congress leader Udit Raj expressed concern over the alleged deletion of voters' names and did not rule out strong action by his party.

'Operation Aaghat 4.0' nets 200 criminals

NEW DELHI

The South East Delhi Police have launched 'Operation Aaghat 4.0', a major enforcement drive aimed at curbing crime and maintaining law and order across the district.

The large-scale operation resulted in the arrest of 200 criminals and action against a total of 948 individuals, marking one of the most extensive crackdowns in recent months. According to officials, the operation was carried out through coordinated raids, targeted surveillance, and intensive checking in vulnerable and sensitive areas. Police teams were deployed across multiple locations to track habitual offenders, bootleggers, drug suppliers, and those involved in unlawful activities. During the drive, law enforcement personnel recovered 10 weapons from those apprehended and seized more than 10,000 bottles of illicit liquor. Four persons were arrested under the NDPS Act, with the recovery of 6.66 kilograms of ganja and 12.70 grams of MDMA. In a separate action under the Excise Act, 38 individuals were arrested, leading to the seizure of 8,276 quarter bottles, 110 beer bottles, and 28 beer cans. The crackdown also targeted illegal arms possession. Twenty-nine persons were arrested under the Arms Act, and police recovered 11 country-made pistols (CMP), 13 live cartridges, and 20 knives.

3 Delhi-Mumbai Expressway lanes shut as Rajasthan cops search for missing boy's remains

JAIPUR

The search for the skeletal remains of four-year-old Tillu alias Prince, who went missing six years ago under the Bandikui police station limits in Rajasthan's Dausa district, entered its third consecutive day on Tuesday.

The search is being carried out after the accused referred to the area where the child's body was likely to have been buried during the investigation. Excavation, which started on Sunday, is currently underway on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, resulting in the closure of three out of five traffic lanes. Police also conducted a drone camera survey of an area of approximately one km. The operation intensified following fresh leads in the murder investigation. On Monday, authorities carried out extensive excavation across an approximately 80-metre stretch, about four metres wide and nearly 12 feet deep, using JCB machines and heavy excavators. However, no skeletal remains were recovered, prompting officials to resume digging on Tuesday. Sources said the excavator deployed at the site costs around Rs 10,500 per hour and consumes nearly 20 litres of diesel per hour.

On Sunday, the first day of the operation, the road surface was removed using a milling machine.

Subsequently, sensitive locations were identified with the help of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology.

Based on a location earlier indicated by the accused -- near a peepal tree -- two to three highly sensitive zones were marked.

DEVOTION MEETS HARMONY

Mosque, church join Attukal Pongala in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As lakhs of women converged on Thiruvananthapuram for the famed Attukal Pongala festival, Palayam which is located in the heart of the state capital city and is a modest but symbolically powerful junction, quietly reaffirmed Kerala's culture of coexistence.

Within a few metres of one another stand the Palayam Juma Masjid, the St. Joseph's Cathedral and the Palayam Mahaganapathy Temple, a rare streetscape that has long embodied the city's plural ethos. At the spiritual centre of the festival is the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, popularly known today as the Sabarimala for Women.

Dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathy, the temple is steeped in legend. Folklore links the deity to Kannaki of the Tamil epic Silappathikaram, believed to have stopped at Attukal on her way to Kodungallur after avenging her husband's injustice. Over time, the shrine evolved into one of the largest congregations of women in the world, with Pongala, the ritual offering of sweet rice cooked in earthen pots entering the Guinness record books for mass participation.

An estimated over four million people take part in the event, that began on Tuesday morning and winds up around 3 pm. Even as devotion defined the day, it was compassion that shaped Palayam's response. Ahead of last Friday prayers, the Imam of Palayam Juma Masjid called upon the faithful to extend wholehearted hospitality to the women and children arriving for Pongala, a message that resonated widely on social media as a testament to Kerala's secular fabric. Facilities for freshening up, resting spaces and drinking water were arranged at the mosque premises. At the nearby St. Joseph's Cathedral, arrangements for drinking water and resting spaces were made available. Local collectives in Palayam prepared and distributed breakfast and lunch.

Across the city, various groups joined in by offering food, water, buttermilk, fruits and juices. In doing so, Palayam once again transformed the festival into a celebration not just of faith, but of shared humanity and social harmony.

Delhi meet focused on poll strategy: EPS

AIADMK chief says talks with Amit Shah centred on alliance coordination and election planning.

CHENNAI

Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS), General Secretary of the AIADMK, has clarified that his recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi was primarily aimed at coordinating strategy for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections and reinforcing the existing alliance framework.

With only a few months remaining for the crucial Assembly polls, political activity across Tamil Nadu has intensified significantly. The ruling M. K. Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has already initiated seat-sharing negotiations with its allies, setting the tone for a competitive electoral battle. At the same time, expectations are mounting that the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) will soon begin formal discussions with its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners to finalise its strategy.

Against this backdrop, Palaniswami travelled to the national capital on Monday and held a nearly two-hour meeting with Amit Shah. The high-profile interaction triggered speculation about possible political realignments in the state, including rumours of new alliances and internal shifts within the AIADMK.

However, speaking to reporters at the Delhi airport on Tuesday morning, Palaniswami firmly dismissed such conjecture. I discussed working together in the Tamil Nadu elections with Amit Shah. Our talks were about how to effectively conduct the campaign and strengthen our cooperation, he said, emphasising that the discussions were limited to election management and strategic coordination.

Addressing speculation about a potential tie-up with a new party reportedly launched by V. K. Sasikala, the former Chief Minister categorically denied any such development. I did not speak about forming an alliance with the new party started by Sasikala, he asserted, putting to rest rumours about internal realignments.

Describing the AIADMK-led alliance as harmonious and energetic, Palaniswami expressed confidence that it would mount a strong challenge to the ruling DMK in the 2026 Assembly elections. He reiterated that his discussions with the Union Home Minister revolved around campaign coordination, election preparedness, and ensuring effective collaboration among alliance partners.

Taking a swipe at the DMK-Congress combine, Palaniswami suggested that uncertainty prevailed within the ruling coalition. There is confusion in the DMK-Congress alliance. I am not sure whether the Congress will remain in that alliance, he remarked, signalling that the political contest in Tamil Nadu is set to intensify in the coming months.

CHIDAMBARAM MEETS STALIN AMID ALLIANCE DEADLOCK

CHENNAI

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Tuesday as tensions escalated within the DMK–Congress alliance over seat-sharing arrangements for the forthcoming Assembly elections.

The meeting assumes significance amid mounting speculation that the Congress may reconsider its position in the alliance if a compromise is not reached soon. Negotiations between the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Indian National Congress have so far remained inconclusive, with both parties standing firm on their respective demands.

As the State moves closer to the election schedule, the absence of a consensus has triggered intense political debate and uncertainty within the ruling coalition. According to party sources, the Congress is seeking more than 40 Assembly constituencies in the upcoming polls, arguing that its organisational presence and national stature justify a larger share.

However, the DMK leadership has reportedly made it clear that it is willing to allocate only 25 seats the same number offered during the 2021 Assembly elections along with one Rajya Sabha berth. Sources within the DMK suggest that expanding the Congress quota could weaken the party's own electoral prospects in what is expected to be a closely contested election.

The deadlock has caused unease within Congress circles. A section of party leaders has been urging the high command to reassess its alliance strategy if the seat demand is not accommodated. Some leaders have even floated the idea of exploring alternative political alignments.

Among the options being discussed is a potential understanding with actor-turned-politician Vijay and his party, Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK). These concerns and suggestions are said to have been conveyed to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, intensifying internal deliberations within the Congress.

Adding urgency to the ongoing negotiations, the DMK has reportedly set March 3 as the deadline for the Congress to communicate its final decision regarding the alliance.

QUICK READ

Partial damage to buildings of Iran's Natanz nuclear site

Tehran

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Tuesday confirmed that entrance buildings at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility have sustained partial damage, following analysis of satellite images taken over the past two days that appear to show the impact of the ongoing US-Israeli bombing campaign. Based on the latest available satellite imagery, IAEA can now confirm some recent damage to entrance buildings of Iran's underground Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP), the agency said in a post on X. No radiological consequence expected and no additional impact detected at FEP itself.

China's citizens face hardship as jobs shrink and wages fall

Beijing

The Chinese government and the ruling Communist Party of China (CCP) have not taken any steps to solve the problem of limited employment opportunities in the country, and the significant decline in the wages of workers in recent years, an article said. Despite these harsh economic realities, the expectation to display fake prosperity among the population has not eased, according to the article in Mekong News. This is evident in the Spring Festival, during which people feel trapped between two painful choices: spend their savings to maintain face or hold back and risk humiliation.

Indian relocates students from Tehran to safer place in Iran

Tehran

J&K Students Association (JKSA) said on Tuesday that all Indian students have been relocated from the worst-hit Tehran to a relatively safer location, Qom in Iran. Nasir Kheuhami, national convenor of JKSA, said, The JKSA on Tuesday confirmed that Indian students residing in Tehran have been relocated to the city of Qom as a precautionary measure amid the ongoing escalation and continuous airstrikes in Iran. Tehran, being among the worst-hit, the Embassy of India there has initiated a relocation process in view of the deteriorating security situation.

Blasts rock Tehran, Beirut as markets slide

Global markets tumble amid escalating US-Israeli air war on Iran and fears of prolonged energy disruption.

TEL AVIV

Explosions ripped through Tehran and Beirut on Tuesday as the escalating U.S.-Israeli air campaign against Iran intensified, triggering widespread anxiety across the Middle East and sending shockwaves through global financial markets.

Investors reacted sharply to concerns that a prolonged conflict could severely disrupt global energy supplies, pushing oil prices higher and equities lower.

A day after President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declined to specify how long military operations would continue, a source told Reuters that Israel's campaign had initially been planned to last two weeks and was advancing faster than anticipated. The rapid pace of strikes has intensified uncertainty in both political and economic circles.

In Tehran, residents described scenes of fear and devastation. How long will this continue? Where are the shelters? Where is the government? Bijan, a 32-year-old bank employee, told Reuters by telephone. Every night my wife and I hide in the basement. The whole city is empty. There is smoke and blood everywhere. Similar reports emerged from Beirut, where blasts shook several districts, raising fears of regional spillover.

Financial markets reacted swiftly. Crude oil prices climbed roughly 4% overnight amid concerns about supply disruptions from one of the world's key energy-producing regions. Europe's benchmark STOXX 600 index fell 3% in early trading after a 1.7% drop a day earlier. In the United States, stock futures slid nearly 2%, signaling that Wall Street could extend the global selloff.

The campaign took a dramatic turn on its opening day with the reported killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in an airstrike. If confirmed, it would mark a historic first: the assassination of a sitting national leader by enemy forces from the air. Analysts note that should the operation succeed in toppling Iran's ruling system without deploying ground troops, it would represent another unprecedented development in modern warfare.

Iran has denounced the strikes as an unprovoked act of aggression and vowed retaliation. As explosions continue and markets remain volatile, the prospect of a drawn-out conflict threatens not only regional stability but also the fragile balance of the global economy.

Israel issues more evacuation warnings

In an X post, the Israeli military's Arab media spokesperson Avichay Adraee gives a long list of towns and cities where Lebanese residents have been warned to leave. "And we ask you not to return to them", he says. The advice says residents should evacuate their homes and travel at least 1,000 metres away from any of the more than 80 towns and villages which are on the evacuation list.

Israel working to 'intercept threat' of Iranian strikes

Earlier, the Israeli military said Iran had launched fresh missile strikes at Israel. It said its defensive systems were operating to "intercept the threat", and advised that residents enter shelters and remain there "until further notice". Warning sirens were reported to have been heard across the nation, including in Tel Aviv.

US orders evacuations across Middle East amid war escalation

WASHINGTON

The United States on Tuesday ordered non-emergency government personnel and their family members to depart from several Middle Eastern countries as tensions with Iran sharply escalated. The directive affects staff stationed in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq and Jordan, reflecting growing concerns about regional security risks.

In addition to the evacuation order, Washington temporarily closed multiple diplomatic missions across the region. The U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia was shut down following a reported drone attack, prompting American citizens in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dhahran to shelter in place until further notice. U.S. officials cited an abundance of caution as the primary reason for the closures, noting the increasingly volatile environment.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait announced that it would remain closed until further notice, with all regular and emergency consular appointments cancelled. Officials urged American citizens in the country to monitor official updates and maintain heightened awareness of their surroundings.

In Israel, the U.S. Embassy in Israel stated that it was not in a position to evacuate or directly assist Americans seeking to leave the country. The embassy advised citizens to make independent security arrangements and remain vigilant as hostilities continue.

The sweeping measures come amid an expanding conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran. As military exchanges and proxy confrontations intensify, U.S. diplomatic facilities have increased security precautions and limited non-essential travel to military installations across the region.

Officials have not indicated how long the closures and evacuations will remain in effect, but emphasized that the safety of U.S. personnel and citizens remains the highest priority. The developments underscore the widening scope of instability in the Middle East, raising fears of further escalation that could draw in additional regional actors and disrupt diplomatic and economic activity.

Non-essential personnel withdrawn as diplomatic missions close over rising regional tensions.

LE MERIDIEN
MARKET

Zelensky offers help to save civilians in Gulf amid Iran offensive, but conditions apply

Kyiv: Amid escalating Mideast tensions, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has offered assistance to Gulf nations to protect civilian populations. But in return, he demanded a proposal for a temporary ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine war. He said he can help in saving the civilians in the Gulf region from Iranian bombings, but only if the leader of the region would help him end the war in his country. He said the Gulf leaders have strong economic ties with Russia, and hence they could play a crucial role in persuading Moscow to agree to a pause or end the war. He added that if Gulf leaders send a signal to Russia for a ceasefire, Ukraine could deploy specialists to help protect civilians there. "If they give Russia a signal to cease fire, for a certain period of time, (0:14) a month, two months, we can then send our specialists to protect the civilians. The peace talks should take place between the 5th and 8th or 9th of this month," he said as per agencies.

US action on Iran puts Xi in diplomatic bind ahead of Trump summit

BEIJING

The ongoing US military campaign against Iran has placed Chinese President Xi Jinping in a delicate diplomatic position just weeks before an expected summit with Donald Trump in Beijing.

The escalation follows a series of high-impact U.S. and Israeli military actions that have reshaped geopolitical calculations including the reported death of Iran's Supreme Leader in air strikes and Washington's controversial intervention in Venezuela earlier this year.

Originally scheduled to focus on trade and economic cooperation, the late-March summit between Trump and Xi now faces uncertainty as China recalibrates its approach amid a widening Middle East crisis. Beijing has officially condemned the U.S.–Israeli operations, calling them unacceptable and urging restraint, yet its response has been cautious and measured, underscoring limited leverage over Washington's military decisions.

The conflict's escalation has practical implications for China's strategic interests, particularly energy security. China is one of the world's largest importers of Iranian oil; any disruption to supplies, especially through key routes like the Strait of Hormuz, could exert significant pressure on Chinese industry and markets. Analysts note that while Iran remains important, it accounts for only a portion of China's total energy imports, allowing Beijing a degree of flexibility in managing the crisis.

Experts say Beijing's restrained response reflects its broader diplomatic philosophy, which tends to prioritize economic alliances over security commitments. China's partnerships with countries such as Iran and Venezuela have historically been transactional, focused on trade and investment rather than mutual defense obligations.

IDF pushes into southern Lebanon seeking to blunt Hezbollah threat

JERUSALEM

The Israeli military has deployed additional forces to southern Lebanon overnight, taking up what officials described as defensive positions aimed at protecting Israeli civilians and strategic infrastructure from potential attacks by Hezbollah.

The move follows renewed cross-border tensions after Hezbollah fired rockets into Israel late Sunday.

Speaking during an online briefing, Israeli military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani said the reinforcements were positioned strictly in a defensive capacity along the borderline area. We're only at the borderline area in a defensive manner to prevent attacks against civilians and very strategic important points, he stated, emphasizing that the deployment was precautionary.

Defence Minister Israel Katz confirmed that he had authorized the military to advance and assume control of additional positions in southern Lebanon.

The authorization came after Hezbollah launched rockets toward Israeli territory, which the Lebanese armed group said was in response to joint U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran.

Hezbollah, backed by Iran, has long maintained a strong presence along Lebanon's southern frontier with Israel. The region has remained volatile since the broader escalation involving Israel, the United States and Iran.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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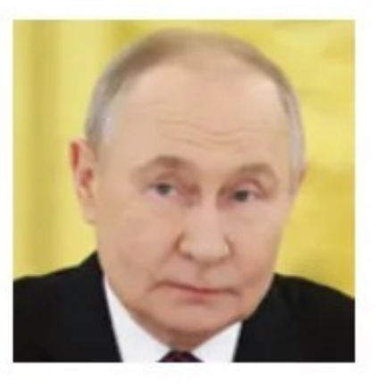
9	4	1	8	6	7	2	5	3
8	2	6	3	9	5	1	7	4
3	5	7	1	2	4	6	8	9
4	6	3	5	7	1	9	2	8
7	1	2	6	8	9	4	3	5
5	8	9	4	3	2	7	6	1
1	7	5	2	4	8	3	9	6
2	3	4	9	5	6	8	1	7
6	9	8	7	1	3	5	4	2

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Putin reaches out to Gulf leaders, signals mediation efforts as strikes escalate

MOSCOW



Russian President Vladimir Putin will convey the concerns of Arab Gulf leaders to Iran over recent strikes on regional oil infrastructure, the Kremlin said Tuesday, as the conflict involving Tehran, the United States and Israel continued to expand. Moscow signaled it is seeking to position itself as a mediator amid growing fears of further instability across the energy-rich Gulf.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Putin had held a flurry of phone calls with four Arab Gulf state leaders. During those discussions, the Russian leader offered to use Moscow's strategic partnership with Tehran to help defuse tensions and prevent further escalation.

Putin will certainly make every effort to contribute to at least a slight easing of tensions, Peskov said. He added that the talks focused on conveying deep concern about the strikes on their infrastructure to Iranian authorities, leveraging Russia's ongoing dialogue with the Iranian leadership.

Russia maintains close political and military ties with Iran, formalized in recent years through expanded cooperation agreements. At the same time, Moscow has cultivated relations with Gulf monarchies, positioning itself as a balancing power in the Middle East.

Analysts say this dual engagement provides the Kremlin with diplomatic leverage, though its ability to meaningfully restrain Tehran remains uncertain.

INTENSE SCRUTINY

Immigration crackdown: US Homeland chief faces Senate heat

MAXICO

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem is expected to confront sharp bipartisan questioning as she appears before lawmakers this week amid mounting controversy over President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement policies.

The high-stakes hearings come at a time when funding for the Department of Homeland Security remains stalled due to Democratic opposition to what they describe as overly aggressive tactics.

Noem, appointed last year by President Donald Trump, has been at the forefront of the administration's sweeping immigration crackdown. Her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, followed by an appearance before the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, is likely to focus heavily on the deployment of thousands of masked federal agents to major U.S. cities.

These agents have conducted large-scale neighborhood operations targeting suspected immigration offenders, actions that have at times led to tense confrontations with local residents and community leaders.

Democratic lawmakers have strongly criticized the operations, arguing that they create fear within immigrant communities and risk violating civil liberties. The funding impasse surrounding the Department of Homeland Security reflects broader concerns among Democrats over the department's enforcement strategies and internal management.

In addition to immigration, Noem may face questions about national security preparedness following recent U.S. military strikes on Iran. Lawmakers are expected to probe whether those actions have heightened potential threats to the United States and how the department is responding to evolving risks.

Further intensifying scrutiny are reports of internal disorder within the department. Critics have pointed to alleged coordination challenges and morale issues as areas requiring clarification during the hearings.

Controversy surrounding Noem deepened after two U.S. citizens were fatally shot by federal immigration agents in Minneapolis in January. In the immediate aftermath, Noem publicly labeled the victims domestic terrorists, remarks that drew criticism from both Democrats and Republicans.

War Clouds Cast Uncertainty over Messi, Ronaldo and F1 Schedules

DUBAI

The escalating conflict in the Middle East has begun to disrupt the global sporting calendar, placing major events involving stars like Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lewis Hamilton under a cloud of uncertainty.

Organisers are scrambling to assess the impact of airspace closures and security concerns following recent military strikes in the region. Among the most high-profile events in doubt is the Finalissima scheduled for March 27 in Qatar, where Argentina were set to face Spain. The match offered Messi another opportunity to add silverware to his decorated career, but Qatar has already suspended domestic football fixtures until further notice.

Ronaldo's Saudi club, Al-Nassr, has also been hit by cancellations in the Asian Champions League, with fixtures in Dubai affected by travel disruptions.

Formula 1 faces pressing decisions as races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia approach. The Formula One calendar requires teams to ship freight and personnel weeks in advance, narrowing the window for any relocation or postponement. The FIA has stated that safety and wellbeing remain its top priorities.

Beyond football and motorsport, athletes across disciplines are grappling with travel uncertainty. Former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev is among tennis players stranded in Dubai, potentially affecting participation in the BNP Paribas Open in California. Cricket teams, including the West Indies, have also faced delays due to restricted air routes.

The region's growing prominence in global sport — as hosts, investors and employers — amplifies the disruption. Qatar owns Paris Saint-Germain and hosts multiple international events, while Saudi Arabia continues expanding its footprint in football, boxing and golf.

With tournaments, logistics and athlete safety at stake, sports administrators worldwide now confront complex decisions in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

2026 FIFA World Cup | 100-Day Countdown Begins Amid Geopolitical Tensions

NEW DELHI

The 100-day countdown to the 2026 FIFA World Cup began on Tuesday against a backdrop of mounting geopolitical tensions, casting a shadow over what promises to be the biggest edition in the tournament's history.

Co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19, the expanded spectacle will feature 48 teams — up from 32 in 2022 — competing across 16 venues and four time zones. A total of 104 matches are scheduled, with the bulk of the fixtures set to be played in the United States.

However, the lead-up has been unsettled by global developments. The recent US-Israeli strikes on Iran have emerged as a major flashpoint, with Iran's national team slated to play all three of its group matches in Los Angeles and Seattle. The evolving diplomatic and security situation has raised questions about logistics and participation.

Concerns have also surfaced in Mexico following violence linked to the death of drug lord Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes. Guadalajara, one of the host cities, is scheduled to stage four matches, including the opening game featuring the hosts.

The tournament will kick off at the iconic Estadio Azteca in Mexico City and conclude on July 19 at MetLife Stadium near New York. FIFA expects record revenues of around $11 billion, surpassing earnings from the 2022 edition in Qatar.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has sought to reassure stakeholders, expressing confidence in the preparations. Yet, the participation of Iran and broader regional instability continue to fuel debate.

Memories remain fresh of the dramatic 2022 final between Argentina and France, when Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappé produced a spectacle for the ages.

As the countdown gathers pace, anticipation for football's grandest stage remains high — even as uncertainty lingers in a volatile global climate.

2026 FIFA World Cup | Explained: Ticket Sales, Pricing and Resale Rules

NEW DELHI

With the 100-day countdown underway, ticket demand for the 2026 FIFA World Cup has reached unprecedented levels, reshaping how seats are sold, priced and resold for football's biggest event.

FIFA has confirmed that nearly two million tickets were sold during the first two sales phases, with applications oversubscribed more than 30 times. Requests alone were said to be 3.4 times higher than the total attendance across 964 matches in the previous 22 editions combined since 1930. Fans from the United States, Canada and Mexico led purchases, followed by supporters from England, Germany, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, Argentina and France.

By comparison, ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, FIFA reported 2.89 million tickets sold one month before kickoff, eventually reaching over 3.18 million tickets and generating $686 million in revenue. The 2026 edition will be larger, featuring 48 teams and 104 matches.

Ticket prices have drawn attention. The July 19 final at MetLife Stadium ranges from $2,030 to $6,370, a sharp rise from Qatar 2022 final prices of $206 to $1,607. The opening match on June 11 at Estadio Azteca is priced between $560 and $2,735, while group-stage matches range from $100 to $575. Knockout rounds increase progressively, with semi-final tickets reaching as high as $2,780.

In response to criticism, FIFA introduced a limited number of $60 "Supporter Entry Tier" tickets, though availability is restricted. For the first time, FIFA is also implementing dynamic pricing, allowing ticket costs to fluctuate based on demand and availability.

On resale, FIFA's official platform charges a 15% fee for both buying and selling. While Mexican residents cannot resell above face value, resale markups are permitted in the United States and Canada, making the secondary market particularly active.

With soaring demand and evolving pricing models, access to the 2026 tournament reflects both football's global appeal and shifting commercial realities.

Getafe CF Stun Real Madrid, Deal Blow to La Liga Title Hopes

MADRID

Real Madrid's La Liga title challenge suffered a significant setback after a shock 1-0 home defeat to Getafe left them four points behind leaders FC Barcelona.

Alvaro Arbeloa's side were undone by a superb second-half volley from Uruguayan forward Martin Satriano, condemning Los Blancos to back-to-back league defeats for the first time since 2020. The loss at the Santiago Bernabeu follows last weekend's stumble at Osasuna, a result that allowed Barcelona to seize top spot before extending their advantage with victory over Villarreal.

With top scorer Kylian Mbappé sidelined due to a knee sprain, Madrid paired Gonzalo Garcia alongside Vinícius Júnior in attack. Vinícius, in strong form this calendar year, squandered an early one-on-one opportunity, denied by Getafe goalkeeper David Soria's outstretched leg.

Arda Guler nearly broke the deadlock with a dazzling piece of skill, but Soria tipped his effort over the bar. Madrid also survived a worrying collision between Antonio Rudiger and Diego Rico before Getafe struck decisively. Mauro Arambarri's header fell invitingly to Satriano, who rifled a precise volley into the net from the edge of the box.

Soria continued to frustrate the hosts after the break, producing another sharp save from Vinícius. Rudiger came closest to an equaliser with a header, but Madrid's display lacked cohesion and cutting edge.

The night deteriorated further in stoppage time when Franco Mastantuono was sent off for dissent. Getafe were later reduced to 10 men after Adrian Liso received a second yellow card, but the visitors held firm to secure their first win at the Bernabeu since 2008.

Forward undergoing conservative care; surgery not planned currently

Mbappé in Paris for Knee Treatment, Doubtful for Real Madrid's Clash with Manchester City

PARIS

France captain Kylian Mbappé was in Paris for treatment on a persistent knee injury, casting doubt over his availability for Real Madrid's upcoming Champions League showdown against Manchester City.

The Spanish giants confirmed that Mbappé has been diagnosed with a sprain in the external ligament of his left knee following examinations conducted by French specialists under the supervision of the club's medical team. Real Madrid said the striker will continue with a "conservative" treatment plan and that no surgery is currently required.

Mbappé travelled to the French capital accompanied by members of Madrid's medical staff. His entourage stated that the visit was aimed at optimising his rehabilitation and preparing for a full recovery, dismissing any speculation of disagreement between club and country over his treatment.

The 27-year-old has been managing discomfort in his left knee since late 2025. He missed last week's Champions League play-off second leg against Benfica due to persistent pain during training. Madrid were also without their leading scorer in their domestic fixture against Getafe.

Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa recently indicated that Mbappé's return will not be immediate, stressing that the priority is ensuring he regains full fitness rather than rushing him back. The forward has been in prolific form this season, netting 38 goals in 33 appearances across competitions.

His condition now raises uncertainty ahead of Madrid's Champions League last-16 tie against Manchester City, with the first leg scheduled for March 11 and the return on March 17.

France will also be monitoring developments closely. Didier Deschamps' side are set to play friendlies against Brazil in Boston on March 26 and Colombia in Washington three days later, before beginning their World Cup campaign on June 16 against Senegal.

For now, both club and country await clarity on whether Mbappé can recover in time for the crucial European fixture.

Jontay Porter

Signs with Independent League after NBA Ban

SEATTLE

Former Toronto Raptors center Jontay Porter, who received a lifetime NBA ban in 2024 for gambling violations, is set to resume his professional basketball career in an independent league. Porter has signed with the Seattle Superhawks of the United States Basketball League (USBL), which recently revived operations after previously ceasing in 2008. The Superhawks are scheduled to open their season at home on Saturday, marking Porter's first competitive appearance since his suspension.

The NBA banned Porter for life after a league investigation found he disclosed confidential information to sports bettors and placed wagers on games, including betting on the Raptors to lose. At the time, he was on a two-way contract, splitting time between Toronto and its G League affiliate, earning $410,000 for the 2023-24 season.

In July 2024, Porter pleaded guilty in federal court in Brooklyn to conspiracy to commit wire fraud. He admitted to withdrawing early from games to help co-conspirators profit from bets tied to his performance. The felony charge carries a potential sentence of up to 20 years, though prosecutors estimated a likely range of three and a half to four years in prison. Porter acknowledged he acted to clear significant gambling debts and publicly apologised for his conduct.

The USBL said in a statement that it believes in second chances, citing Porter's remorse and commitment to personal growth. "The USBL and the Superhawks are united in offering him the chance to continue his basketball journey," the league said.

Porter averaged 4.4 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists in 26 games for Toronto in 2023-24. He also appeared in 11 games for the Memphis Grizzlies during the 2020-21 season.

While his NBA career remains over, Porter's move to the USBL represents an attempt at redemption in professional basketball.

Prague International Chess Festival:

Gukesh Blunders Again, Abdusattorov Prevails

PRAGUE

World champion D Gukesh endured another painful setback as he blundered from a position of strength to lose against Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov in the Masters section of the Prague International Chess Festival.

Barely a month after suffering a similar fate against Abdusattorov at the Tata Steel Chess Tournament, Gukesh appeared poised for revenge. Playing with the black pieces in the fifth round, the Indian adopted a fresh strategic approach and quickly seized the initiative.

He mounted sustained pressure on the white king, creating structural weaknesses and earning a clear advantage through much of the middlegame.

Engines suggested Gukesh was cruising towards what would have been his first win in the Masters section. However, as the clock ticked down towards the first time control, nerves crept in. A late inaccuracy shifted momentum, and although Abdusattorov momentarily faltered in return, Gukesh committed another decisive blunder that allowed the Uzbek to advance a pawn to promotion and seal victory.

It marked the second straight tournament where Abdusattorov capitalised on a Gukesh error from a promising position, underlining the psychological edge the Uzbek currently holds.

Elsewhere, Dutch Grandmaster Jorden van Foreest continued his remarkable run, defeating Hans Niemann to register his fourth win in five games and climb to 11th in the live world rankings. Spain's David Anton Guijarro overcame defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram, while Czech star David Navara and Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo also scored decisive victories.

With van Foreest leading on four points, Abdusattorov and Navara trail by half a point. Gukesh, Aravindh and Niemann languish at the bottom with 1.5 points each.

In the Challengers section, Divya Deshmukh secured her first win, defeating compatriot Surya Shekhar Ganguly, while Czech talent Finek Vanclav maintained his lead.

QUICK READ

Farmers step onto global stage: CM Sarma

Guwahati

Assam has achieved a major milestone in agri-exports with the first-ever shipment of GI-tagged Karbi Anglong fresh ginger to London, marking a historic moment for the state's agricultural sector, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday. In a post on social media platform X, the Chief Minister described the development as a proud step for Assam's farmers and a sign of the state's expanding presence in international agricultural markets. He said the export reflects the growing global recognition of Assam's high-quality, GI-tagged produce and the government's sustained efforts to strengthen farm-based livelihoods.

India's cleantech hiring surges 56% in last 2 years

New Delhi

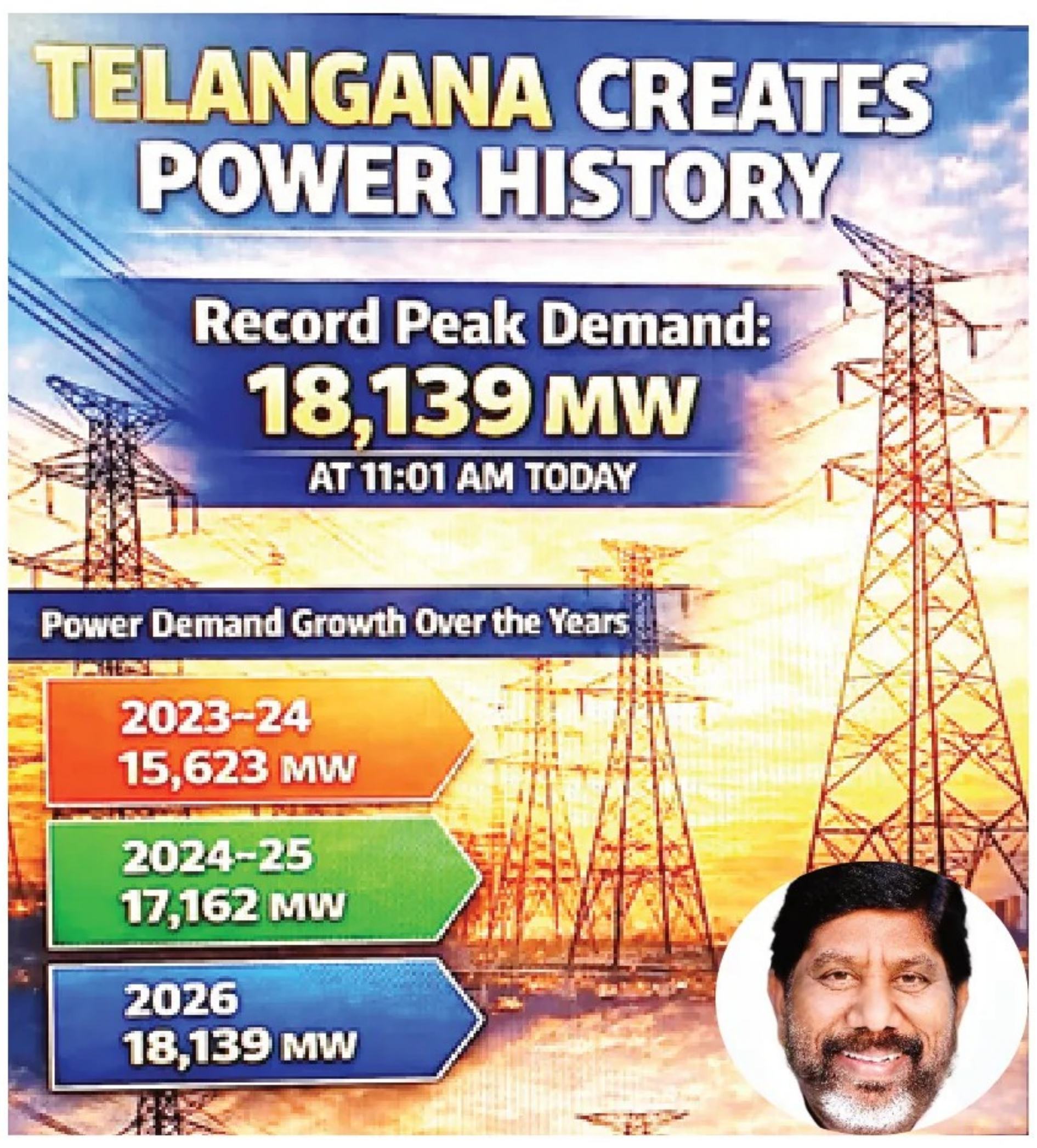
India's cleantech industry which includes products, services and processes emerged as one of the country's fastest-scaling talent markets, with hiring rising 56.6 per cent over the past two years, a report said on Tuesday. Despite a near-term moderation, workforce expansion remains strong, with headcount growing 13.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) which highlights a shift from capital-led expansion to execution-focused scaling, CIEL HR stated in its latest report.

While the study also flagged a gender imbalance, with women comprising 11 per cent of the workforce and 15 per cent of leadership roles.

Telangana sets historic peak power demand record

State meets unprecedented 18,139 MW demand seamlessly, reflecting rapid economic growth and energy efficiency

HYDERABAD



Telangana on Tuesday achieved a historic milestone by successfully meeting a record peak power demand of 18,139 megawatts (MW), the highest ever recorded in the state's history.

The peak demand was registered at 11:01 a.m., and state power utilities managed the load without any interruption, ensuring uninterrupted and quality power supply across sectors.

Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka hailed the achievement, congratulating senior officials and the entire staff of the state power utilities for efficiently handling the unprecedented demand. He described the accomplishment as a reflection of Telangana's economic growth, operational efficiency, and excellent coordination among various departments.

This milestone reflects Telangana's economic growth, operational efficiency, and excellent coordination, he said in an official release.

Despite being geographically smaller compared to many other Indian states, Telangana has reached a level where it matches and, in some cases, surpasses the peak loads of larger states. The achievement underscores rapid expansion across industrial, agricultural, and urban sectors, which have significantly contributed to the rising electricity consumption.

With a peak demand of 18,139 MW, Telangana now stands comparable to states like Madhya Pradesh, which recorded around 19,900 MW, and Rajasthan, which registered peak demand between 19,600 MW and 20,600 MW. Officials noted that despite its relatively smaller geographical size and population, Telangana has demonstrated remarkable capacity and resilience in managing high electricity loads.

The statement further highlighted that Telangana's peak demand has exceeded that of industrially significant states such as Punjab, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. This positions Telangana as a state with high electricity consumption density and strong economic momentum.

Officials attributed the surge in demand to rapid growth in IT, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and irrigation sectors. The upward trend in power consumption has been consistent over the past few years. During 2023-24, the state recorded a peak demand of 15,623 MW on March 8, 2024. This was followed by a higher peak of 17,162 MW on March 20, 2025, culminating in the new record set this week.

UIDAI completes Aadhaar biometric updates for 1.2 cr students

NEW DELHI

In a major achievement, the Unique Identification Authority of India has covered more than 1.03 lakh schools across the country to help students complete their mandatory biometric update (MBU) in Aadhaar easily within their school campuses, Ministry of Electronics & IT said on Tuesday. So far, around 1.2 crore school children have completed their biometric updates under this large-scale drive. The exercise aims to ensure that children's Aadhaar details remain accurate and up to date, which is important for availing government benefits and services.

India targets 400 MT steel capacity by 2035

MUMBAI

India's steel sector is aiming to scale up its production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030 and further to 400 million tonnes by 2035, as part of a strategic push to position the country as a global leader in steel manufacturing, the government said on Tuesday.

Sandeep Poundrik, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, highlighted the ambitious expansion plans during a high-level interactive session convened with senior diplomats from across the globe to advance strategic collaboration in the sector. According to an official statement, the Ministry also presented a preview of 'Bharat Steel 2026,' an international conference-cum-exhibition scheduled to be held on April 16–17, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The session invited suggestions from the diplomatic community to help outline a comprehensive roadmap for Bharat Steel 2026. Poundrik emphasised the rapid modernisation of India's steel industry and encouraged global partners to collaborate as the sector transitions towards low-carbon production pathways and advanced process technologies.

He reaffirmed India's commitment to building resilient and sustainable global supply chains rooted in innovation, operational efficiency, and environmental responsibility. The strategy, he said, focuses on strengthening raw material security, accelerating technology transfer, promoting green and sustainable steel production, and fostering meaningful international partnerships.

The diplomatic community responded positively, expressing appreciation for India's forward-looking vision and enthusiasm for participating in the upcoming global event.

A ₹2,901 crore deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will procure six Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III for the Indian Coast Guard under the Buy (Indian–IDDM) category

MoD signs ₹5,083 cr helicopter and missile deals with HAL, Russia

MUMBAI

The Ministry of Defence on Tuesday signed two significant contracts worth ₹5,083 crore aimed at strengthening the operational capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy.

The agreements were formalised at South Block in New Delhi in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. The ALH contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is worth ₹2,901 crore and covers operational equipment, an engineering support package, and performance-based logistics support, while the one for missiles was signed with Russia's Rosoboronexport and is valued at ₹2,182 crore, the defence ministry said.

A major portion of the total outlay — ₹2,901 crore — has been allocated for the procurement of six Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III in the Maritime Role for the Indian Coast Guard. The contract has been signed with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category, reinforcing the government's push for domestic defence production.

The twin-engine ALH Mk-III helicopters are equipped with state-of-the-art features that surpass currently operated airborne platforms. Designed for versatile maritime operations, these helicopters can undertake a wide spectrum of missions from shore-based airfields as well as from ships at sea. According to the Ministry of Defence, the advanced platforms will significantly enhance the Coast Guard's ability to safeguard offshore installations, artificial islands, fishermen, and the marine environment.

The project is also expected to provide a substantial boost to the domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem, involving more than 200 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the supply chain. Officials estimate that the initiative will generate around 65 lakh man-hours of employment.

The government stated that the contract reflects its continued commitment to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision and the Make in India initiative, while simultaneously strengthening maritime security.

High taxes choke investment in Pak

Islamabad

Pakistan's high taxation regime is choking the formal economy, especially industrial businesses, yet there seems to be no realisation within the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR), which keeps extracting juice from the top 1 per cent of the population, according to an article.

The core of the issue is that capital formation is disincentivised, as the effective tax rate, including is over 50 per cent for large manufacturing facilities, according to the article in the Karachi-based Business Recorder.

The main shareholders' tax is even higher if the business house has a corporate structure, as there is a 15 per cent tax on intercorporate dividends. The net return after all taxes is reduced to one-third of profits, it stated. Financial capital keeps flying out of the country, and human capital too, as salaried taxes are the highest in the region. It is evident from growing Pakistani investment in the Middle East, especially in the UAE.

The article points out that high-net-worth Pakistani residents are subject to income tax of up to 45 per cent, an additional super tax of up to 10 per cent, and a 1 per cent capital value tax on certain assets held outside Pakistan. As a result, some individuals, including business tycoons, choose to relocate to Dubai or other destinations and become non-residents for tax purposes. For many, the potential tax savings outweigh the higher cost of living abroad.

AEPC hails India-Canada CEPA talks revival

Industry body says proposed trade pact could double apparel exports, boost jobs and investments

NEW DELHI

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on Tuesday welcomed the strengthening of India-Canada ties, particularly the resumption of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), stating that the proposed pact could significantly enhance apparel exports to Canada and deepen bilateral economic engagement.

Dr A. Sakthivel, Chairman of AEPC, said that signing the CEPA could potentially double apparel exports to Canada within the next three years, while also creating substantial opportunities for investment and employment generation. Currently, India's apparel exports to Canada stand at approximately $250 million. According to Sakthivel, the comprehensive trade framework would serve as a strong economic anchor, expanding bilateral trade and reinvigorating investments based on economic complementarities between the two nations.

AEPC also welcomed the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his participation in the CEO's Forum alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and pursue a mutually beneficial CEPA.

The partnership offers a significant opportunity for sustainable energy production, making India an ethical and responsible sourcing destination, Sakthivel said, highlighting India's growing emphasis on sustainable manufacturing and compliance with global standards.

The industry body further noted that stronger ties between India and Canada would facilitate technology transfer, research and development collaborations, and the adoption of advanced tools such as artificial intelligence and automation. These developments are expected to help the apparel industry scale up production capacity and enhance adherence to international compliance norms.

Both leaders also underscored the importance of skilling initiatives and talent mobility in strengthening people-to-people connections between the two countries, AEPC said.

In New Delhi, the two nations announced a Strategic Energy Partnership, under which Canadian company Cameco will supply nearly 22 million pounds of uranium from 2027 to 2035 to power India's civil nuclear reactors.

Reports indicate that the Canadian government is linking the CEPA negotiations to an ambitious target of more than doubling two-way trade to $70 billion by 2030.

Gujarat's 'Miracle Boy' AI technician achieves 80% cattle conception

SURAT

A livestock artificial insemination technician from Vaheval village in Gujarat's Surat district, has recorded an unusually high conception success rate, significantly improving reproductive performance and milk yields in dairy cattle in the region.

Deepak Patel, 63, who has only completed education up to the fifth standard, has recorded an 80 per cent conception rate in cattle through artificial insemination, according to officials at the Surat District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited (SUMUL Dairy).

After receiving a call last week, he visited a farmer's home to examine a cow, advising the owner to wait several hours before insemination because the animal was not yet in the optimal stage of heat.

This is the correct time for artificial insemination, he told the farmer before returning later in the day to perform the procedure. The careful timing is key to the high success rate.

The national average success rate for artificial insemination in India is estimated at 35 to 40 per cent.

Dr Ajitsinh Jadve, head of the veterinary department at SUMUL Dairy, said that the cooperative conducts an estimated 5,00,000 artificial insemination procedures annually across Surat and Tapi districts, with an overall success rate of approximately 53 per cent.

He further added, Patel's individual success rate was significantly higher and that farmers in his area had benefited from an increase in the number of productive dairy animals and higher milk output.

According to figures cited in a book on Patel's work by Dr P. R. Pandya, a former managing director of SUMUL Dairy, average daily milk production from a crossbred cow in India is about 7.4 litres and 8.05 litres in Gujarat.

In Mahuva taluka, crossbred cows inseminated by Patel's method have been reported to produce 11.3 litres per day on average.

SHIFTING GLOBAL DYNAMICS

India can play key role as world's manufacturing partner: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the world is actively seeking reliable and resilient manufacturing partners and India has the opportunity to play this role strongly amid shifting global dynamics.

Addressing a post-Budget Webinar, focusing on the theme of Sustaining and Strengthening Economic Growth, PM Modi urged stakeholders to invest with confidence, adopt cutting-edge technology, make significant investments in research, and maintain global quality standards.

The Prime Minister observed that as global supply chains are getting re-shaped, India's robust economy has become a beacon of hope for the world. The rapid progress of the economy is a massive foundation for a Viksit Bharat, he remarked.

Touching on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the Prime Minister stated that these agreements have opened doors of opportunity, placing a renewed responsibility on the Indian industry to emphasise quality.

He stressed the need to research the preferences and comfort of international consumers to create user-friendly products. Only then will we be able to take advantage of the opportunities that are being created by Free Trade Agreements, the Prime Minister remarked.

Reaffirming the government's clear vision and clear resolution, the Prime Minister reiterated the core mantras of Build more, produce more, connect more, and export more.

Regarding the MSME sector, the Prime Minister noted that recent classification reforms have removed the fear of expansion among small enterprises. While the government continues to facilitate credit access and technology upgrades, he stressed that the real impact depends on MSMEs entering global competition. Now is the time for MSMEs to further increase their productivity, raise their quality standards, and connect with digital processes and strong value chains, PM Modi emphasised.

The Prime Minister identified infrastructure and logistics as the core pillars of the national growth strategy, backed by a record capital expenditure in this year's budget. He highlighted the expansion of high-speed rail, multi-modal connectivity, and ship repair facilities as essential steps for efficiency.

‘SMRITI MANDHANA’ Tops ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings

DUBAI

India opener Smriti Mandhana climbed to the top of the ICC Women’s ODI Batting Rankings on Tuesday following her consistent performances in the recently concluded three-match series against Australia.

Mandhana amassed 790 rating points, overtaking South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt, who slipped to second place with 782 points. The Indian vice-captain struck scores of 58 and 31 during the series, doing enough to reclaim the No. 1 position in the 50-over format.

Australia captain Alyssa Healy, who signed off from ODIs with a century in her final appearance, is placed fourth with 744 points. She sits between compatriot Beth Mooney (749) and Ashleigh Gardner (724) in the latest rankings update.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur is the other Indian in the top 10, moving up four places to ninth after scores of 53, 54 and 25 in the series despite India losing all three matches. Jemimah Rodrigues is placed 12th.

Among bowlers, Australia’s Alana King surged to the No. 1 position with 775 rating points, ending England’s Sophie Ecclestone’s near four-year reign at the top. King claimed seven wickets in the series at an impressive average of 16.71, including a match-winning 4/33 in the third ODI that sealed a 185-run victory for Australia.

Gardner occupies the third spot in the bowling rankings and also continues to lead the ODI all-rounders’ chart with 516 points, well ahead of West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews. India’s Deepti Sharma features 10th among bowlers and fifth in the all-rounders’ list.

The latest rankings reflect Australia’s dominance in the ODI leg of the multi-format series, even as Mandhana’s individual brilliance earned her the coveted top batting honour.

India opener regains summit after strong series against Australia

ICC Men's T20 WC Semifinal Will Be Humdinger, Says Sunil Gavaskar

BENGALURU

Reigning champions India will face England in what promises to be a high-octane semifinal clash, and former captain Sunil Gavaskar believes the contest will be a “humdinger” with the hosts enjoying a slight edge.

India take on England at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday, in a repeat of the semifinals from the 2022 and 2024 editions. While England crushed India by 10 wickets in Adelaide in 2022, Rohit Sharma’s men returned the favour in Providence two years later.

Gavaskar described both teams as evenly matched, with depth in batting and variety in bowling. However, he felt India’s flexible batting order and the presence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah could tilt the balance.

The batting duel between Bumrah and England’s in-form Harry Brook, along with captain Jos Buttler and Phil Salt, could define the outcome. Gavaskar strongly advocated using Bumrah early in the powerplay, arguing that two overs with the new ball could dismantle England’s top order before they settle.

Explaining Bumrah’s effectiveness, Gavaskar said the pacer’s unique action and ability to disguise deliveries make him nearly impossible to read. Unlike bowlers who offer subtle cues, Bumrah “gives nothing away,” making him devastating across formats.

Another key advantage for India, Gavaskar noted, is the adaptability of young batter Tilak Varma.

Whether batting at No. 3 or lower down the order, Tilak has shown maturity in assessing match situations.

India hold slight edge with Bumrah, Tilak flexibility advantage.

Pak Cricket Board Mulls Financial Penalties after T20 Exit

KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is considering financial penalties for players following the national team’s disappointing early exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, sources said.

Pakistan failed to progress beyond the Super Eight stage in the tournament co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, suffering defeats to arch-rivals India and England. Their crucial Super Eight fixture against New Zealand was washed out, denting their semifinal hopes, while a final win over Sri Lanka proved insufficient to keep them in contention. A reliable source indicated that although reports of immediate salary deductions were inaccurate, the board is actively debating whether players should face financial consequences for their below-par performances. “No final decision has been taken yet, but financial penalties are under consideration,” the source confirmed, adding that the matter remains under internal discussion. The team’s showing has reportedly angered not only PCB officials but also influential figures within the government.

Flights disrupted after Gulf tensions halt key transit routes

West Indies cricket team stranded in India amid airspace curbs

NEW DELHI

The West Indies cricket team’s departure from India following its exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has been delayed due to international airspace restrictions triggered by recent military strikes in the Gulf region.

In a statement, Cricket West Indies (CWI) said it is coordinating closely with the International Cricket Council and relevant government authorities to ensure the safe travel of players and support staff. The restrictions stem from heightened security threats after US and Israeli strikes on Iran, which have disrupted major international flight corridors. Flight operations across parts of the Gulf remain suspended, with reported damage at Dubai International Airport — one of the world’s busiest transit hubs. Several airlines have either cancelled or rerouted services as a precautionary measure.

“CWI wishes to advise that the departure of the West Indies Senior Men’s Team from India has been delayed due to international airspace restrictions,” the board said, adding that airlines have been forced to adjust scheduled services for safety reasons.

The Caribbean side was knocked out of the tournament after losing a must-win Super Eight clash against India in Kolkata. CWI expressed appreciation for the understanding shown by fans, families and stakeholders during the uncertain situation.

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe national cricket team is also stranded in India owing to similar disruptions. Zimbabwe Cricket confirmed that its squad remains in Delhi after their scheduled return via Dubai was affected by the evolving security situation in the Middle East. The ICC has activated contingency measures and is working with international carriers to arrange alternative travel routes for affected teams.

Zimbabwe concluded their campaign with a five-wicket defeat to South Africa in their final Super Eight match on Sunday.

Officials said efforts are ongoing to facilitate the safe and timely return of all teams impacted by the airspace closures.

P. V. Sindhu Back Home Safe after Dubai Ordeal

BENGALURU

Indian badminton star P. V. Sindhu returned safely to Bengaluru on Tuesday, three days after being stranded in Dubai amid escalating tensions in West Asia that led to widespread flight suspensions.

The two-time Olympic medallist and her Indonesian coach, Irwansyah Adi Pratama, were stuck at Dubai International Airport after operations were halted following the regional crisis. Sindhu had been en route to Birmingham to compete in the prestigious All England Open Badminton Championships when the disruption occurred.

Confirming her safe return through a post on X, the former world champion wrote: “Back home in Bangalore and safe. The last few days have been intense and uncertain, but I’m truly grateful to be back to my house.” She thanked Dubai authorities, airport staff, immigration officials and ground teams for their support during what she described as a very difficult period.

Sindhu had earlier shared details of her ordeal, revealing that she experienced anxious moments, including hearing an explosion near her place of stay. Calling it an “extremely tense and scary moment,” she reflected on how fragile normal life can be during times of geopolitical unrest.

The crisis, triggered by military escalation in the Gulf region, led to the suspension of several international flight routes, leaving multiple athletes and travellers stranded. Sindhu’s situation drew widespread concern from fans and fellow sportspersons across India.

With her travel plans disrupted, Sindhu has been forced to withdraw from the All England Open, one of the most celebrated tournaments on the global badminton calendar. For now, the 30-year-old has indicated she will take time to rest and reassess her schedule.

Her safe return has brought relief to the Indian sporting fraternity, even as the broader impact of the crisis continues to affect international travel and sporting events.

Sourav Ganguly Backs Sanju Samson as White-Ball Regular

KOLKATA

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has thrown his weight behind Sanju Samson, asserting that the swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batter deserves a consistent run in India’s white-ball squads after his match-winning knock in the T20 World Cup.

Samson smashed an unbeaten 97 off 50 balls to guide India to a successful 196-run chase against the West Indies cricket team in what was effectively a virtual quarterfinal at the Eden Gardens on Sunday. The knock, his first fifty in 13 innings, came under immense pressure with several established batters falling cheaply. Terming it an outstanding effort, Ganguly said Samson had displayed maturity and temperament in a high-stakes encounter. “He’s a very good player. He should consistently play for India in white-ball cricket—100%,” Ganguly stated. “It was a virtual quarterfinal, and to be 97 not out shows his quality. When he gets in, he will hurt the opposition.” Samson’s composed innings stood out on a day when India’s top names, including Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya, failed to convert their starts. The Kerala batter absorbed the pressure, paced the chase smartly and remained unbeaten till the end, anchoring the innings with calculated strokeplay.

Virat Kohli Forever RCB’s Icon, Says Mo Bobat

BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s director of cricket Mo Bobat has hailed Virat Kohli as the enduring icon and hero of the franchise, saying the team owes it to the batting great to surround him with a championship-winning squad.

Bobat described Kohli’s record in the Indian Premier League as “ridiculous,” highlighting his consistency over 18 seasons with a single franchise.

Kohli has scored over 9,000 runs for Royal Challengers Bengaluru since 2008, averaging roughly 500 runs per season — a benchmark many players would consider a standout year.

“He’ll forever be the icon and hero of this team. That won’t go away, and he deserves it,” Bobat said, noting that Kohli’s loyalty and sustained excellence make him central to RCB’s identity. His most memorable season came in 2016 when he amassed a record 973 runs, a tally that remains unmatched in a single IPL edition. RCB enter the upcoming season as defending champions, having clinched their maiden title under the leadership of Rajat Patidar. Bobat revealed that the decision to appoint an Indian captain ahead of IPL 2025 was deliberated deeply, with former skipper Faf du Plessis still performing strongly at the time.

While acknowledging Kohli’s willingness to lead again if required, Bobat stressed the importance of long-term planning.

“The easy option would have been to ask Virat to step back in. But at some point, we can’t be dependent on him all the time,” he said, adding that both he and head coach Andy Flower had discussed the transition with Kohli.

Bobat emphasised that RCB are not approaching the new season with a defensive mindset despite being champions. “We’re not defending anything. We’re chasing back-to-back wins,” he asserted.

For Bobat, building a title-winning side around Kohli — a player who has given his youth and prime years to the franchise — is both a responsibility and a tribute to his extraordinary legacy.

ICC Men's T20 WC: Sixth Bowler India’s Only Concern, Says GLENN MCGRATH

CHENNAI : Australian pace legend Glenn McGrath believes India’s only significant concern ahead of the T20 World Cup semifinals is the absence of a reliable sixth bowling option, even as he backed them and South Africa to reach the final. McGrath, a three-time ODI World Cup winner, said the sixth bowler becomes crucial when frontline options have an off day. “When one or two of your main bowlers go for runs, you need that extra option,” he noted during his annual visit to the MRF Pace Foundation here. He pointed out that Shivam Dube conceding heavily against Zimbabwe exposed this potential weakness. India will face England at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, while South Africa meet New Zealand at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. McGrath stressed that toss and conditions could play a decisive role in knockout matches, especially with dew likely to influence chasing sides.

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